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Williams stuns Dolphins with retirement

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Running back Ricky Williams



Yokota gym slated to get major overhaul

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'King Arthur' star can do without hyped-up fame

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Chris Owen

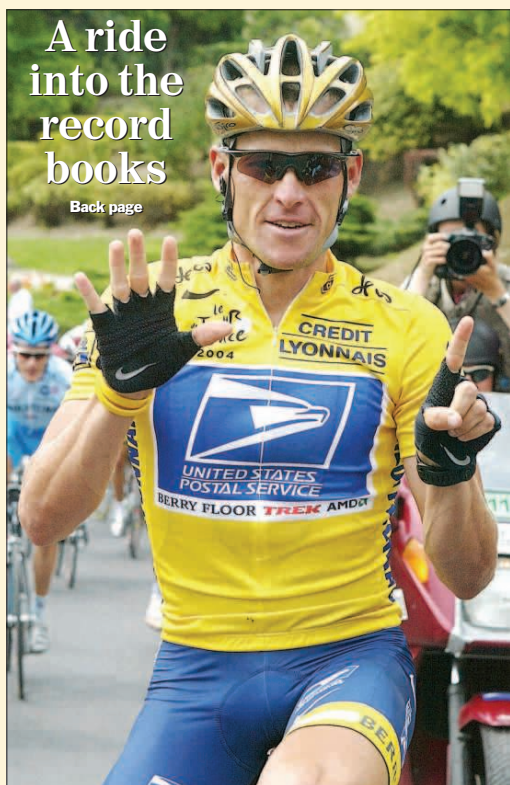
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TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2004

50¢

A ride into the record books

Back page



Lance Armstrong signals "six" Sunday after the start of the final stage of the Tour de France between Montreaux and Paris. Armstrong, who eight years ago was given a less than 50 percent chance of surviving testicular cancer, became the first to win the Tour six consecutive times.

AP



Democrats gather for convention

■ In Boston, Kerry hopes to push message, sway undecided voters

■ Electoral College math gives slight edge to Bush in projection

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AP

Military police arrive Sunday at the FleetCenter in Boston to prepare for the Democratic National Convention, which was to begin Monday.

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Halle Berry

Scene on Sunday

Berry sizzles;
'Catwoman' fizzles

Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Missing jogger: A Salt Lake City woman who disappeared when she reportedly went out for a jog remained missing Saturday, after days of police efforts that have included cadaver dogs and a search of a municipal landfill.

Salt Lake City police Detective Dwayne Baird met for more than an hour Saturday with the family of 27-year-old Lori Hacking, who has been missing since Monday and is reportedly five weeks pregnant.

Clergy sex-abuse settlement: The Springfield, Mass., Diocese will pay at least \$80,000 to each of the 46 people who accused priests of molesting them while they were children under a proposed settlement worth more than \$7 million, a lawyer said Friday.

Lawyer John Stobierski, who represents the accusers, said the amount received will depend on the type of alleged abuse and how long it lasted, with an average award expected to be around \$165,000.

World

Mideast fighting: Six armed Palestinians were killed in a clash with Israeli forces in the West Bank town of Tulikarem after night-fall Sunday, Israeli border police officials said.

Also Sunday, Palestinians fired mortar shells at the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim in the Gaza Strip at dusk, wounding five people, rescue workers and the military said.

Afghan elections: President Hamid Karzai on Sunday postponed a visit to Pakistan, winning time for last-minute work on his nomination for upcoming elections.

Karzai was supposed to begin a two-day visit in Islamabad on Monday, but the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said he called Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Sunday to request a delay.

Jenkins in Japan: Tokyo hopes to reach a solution with Washington soon in the case of former U.S. soldier Charles Jenkins, Japan's foreign minister said Sunday, amid reports a plea-bargain was in the works.

Jenkins, who is undergoing tests at a Tokyo hospital, is wanted by the Army for allegedly abandoning his South Korea post in 1965 and defecting to North Korea.

"Through discussion, we aim to find a solution as quickly as possible," Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi told a NHK public



Train derailment in Turkey: German transport experts and Turkish officials Sunday examine the railway and the wreckage of an express train that derailed in Sakarya, Turkey, on Thursday, killing 37 people. Germans were called in by Turkish officials anxious to quell criticism that the government backed the rail project despite known risks.

broadcaster.

Kawaguchi's comments came amid reports that Japanese officials are pressing Jenkins to enter a plea-bargain as the best way of ensuring he is eventually able to settle in Japan with his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga, and their two North Korean-born daughters.

Diana divorce settlement: Princess Diana "took every penny" that Prince Charles had as part of their divorce settlement, the prince's former financial adviser was quoted as saying by a Sunday newspaper.

Geoffrey Bignell told The Sunday Telegraph that Charles handed over his entire personal fortune when the settlement was made in 1996—a year before Diana died in a Paris car crash.

He did not reveal the amount of the payment, but at the time it was widely reported to be between \$25 million and \$33 million.

Tamil Tiger killings: Eight suspected

members of a breakaway faction of the Tamil Tiger rebels were shot dead as they slept in a suburb of Sri Lanka's capital, police said Sunday.

There was no sign of a gunfight at the isolated house where the men were found sprawled on mats on the floor, police officer Wickrama Perera told The Associated Press.

War on terrorism

Pakistan arrests: Police and intelligence agents raided a suspected terrorist hide-out in eastern Pakistan on Sunday, arresting at least 12 people after a prolonged gun battle, officials said.

At least four of those arrested in the raid in Gujrat were foreigners, said Saadatullah Khan, the chief of police for Punjab province, where Gujrat is located.

It was not clear what the suspects were accused of doing, or what group they belonged to.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Yokota fitness center to get pumped up

\$3.3 million project will be a complete overhaul

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Main Fitness Center here is about to get a major makeover.

The \$3.3 million project, set to begin Aug. 1, is expected to completely overhaul the facility.

Renovations include a bigger entrance and lobby area, new juice bar and pro shop, refurbished restrooms and locker rooms, refinished racquetball courts and new fixtures. Workers also will redo all the walls, ceiling, floors, lighting and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units, said Pat Coleman, the main fitness center director.

Plans also call for the Japanese government to build a two-story addition to the main facility that will house the base's Health and Wellness Center and offer free weights, cardio equipment, martial-arts rooms, aerobics, an extra basketball court and exercise floors.

That project, with an estimated price tag of \$10 million to \$13 million, should begin in 2005 or 2006 and give the fitness center ample space to elevate it to the Air Force's Golden Eagle status, the equivalent of a five-star rating.

"We'll be coming back to a fully brand-new building," Coleman said. "It'll be user-friendly and patron-friendly, too. It's going to be an awesome place."

Although Yokota's main fitness center won't officially be shut down until 8 p.m. Friday, a mini fitness facility opened last week in Building 4, complete with about a dozen machines provid-

Fitness center hours

The main fitness center won't close officially until 8 p.m. on Friday, said Pat Coleman, the main fitness center director.

Naturatorium and Fitness Center hours:

■ Monday-Thursday: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

■ Friday-Sunday: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ Holidays: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Building 4 site will scale its hours back to 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays.

ing users a quick cardio workout. Also, a makeshift fitness center is opening Aug. 1 at the Naturatorium and Teen Center on Yokota's east side.

Indoor basketball, volleyball and racquetball won't be available during the renovation, Coleman said. The community will have outdoor options in those sports.

Even with the opening of the Building 4 facility, some patrons indicated they're upset about the reduced services.

"I understand the renovation, but it seems like they couldn't have arranged it a little better," said JoJo Hernandez, a civilian worker at Yokota. "The treadmill and Nautilus machines I use will be at the east side," meaning she'll have to split her exercise periods between the base's east and west sides. "I don't like it, but I have no choice," she said. "I still need to go to work, you see."

Staci Reinebach and Cherae Ensor, both dependents, were more worried about the impending closure of the base's indoor volleyball courts. The two play for the Yokota women's team.

"That's what we're a little frustrated about," said Reinebach. "We're trying now to hook up with some off-base teams to scrimmage them and use their gyms."

For about a week, Coleman said, the main fitness center will offer only limited access as workers reconfigure the temporary locations.

"Building 4 could get crowded," he said. "The most it can handle is about 15 people at a time. It's a small place, for quick hitters on the main base."

"During that one-week period, I recommend taking it off. Maybe do some jogging, push-ups and sit-ups. That one week isn't too much of a hardship to get something really neat. I think people will like it when it's finished."

The renovation is expected to take 10 months but could last up to a year, Coleman said. Although no decisions have been made, he hopes the two temporary locations remain open after the renovation is complete.

Yokota's main fitness center has become one of the Air Force's premier overseas facilities, frequently notching four-star status. Coleman credits the commitment by Pacific Air Forces. "Readiness and fitness go hand in hand," he said, "so there will always be funding for it."

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@spjtimes.osd.mil



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Contractors assemble exercise machines in the naturatorium before renovations start Aug. 1 in the Main Fitness Center at Yokota Air Base.

Yokota leaders visit 2 summer festivals

Wing commander ranks community relations second in importance only to military mission

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The 374th Airlift Wing's command element, with a few dozen other community members,

stepped outside Yokota's gates Saturday to take part in a pair of annual summer festivals.

After visiting the Hamura Summer Festival earlier in the day, Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, led the contingent across Highway 16 to the Yokota Home retirement facility, where an estimated 350 people had gathered for food, drinks and Tanabata

dancing. Among those attending was Fussa City Mayor Hisato Nozawa.

"Next to doing the mission, community relations is the most important thing we do here," Schissler said.

"We're friendly on the local level, and that carries over to our friendship on the national level."

"Japan is our best ally, best partner and best friend. So these outings are very important."

Col. Mark Schissler the 374th Airlift Wing commander

Jack Inagaki, the facility's director, who also serves as vice president of the Fussa-Yokota Goodwill Exchange Club. The festival



KATIE THOMAS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Tanabata dancers from Yokota Air Base, Japan, perform Saturday at the Yokota Home retirement facility during its annual summer festival. Yokota residents have taken part in the event since 1995.

began in 1995, when Tanabata dancers from Yokota first turned out to perform for the home's residents.

"Since then, the commanders started coming out once a year in the summer," Inagaki said. "The friendly relations between the base and local city is very important and this event helps."

He said up to 50 people from the Yokota Home will visit the base during next month's annual

Friendship Festival.

The retirement facility houses 100 people; another 30 are registered as transient residents.

"This community is right in front of our main gate," Schissler said. "Most of our servicemembers probably hang out in Fussa. They're some of our best friends, and it's important we have a chance to see them. We get to learn all about their culture, and deepen our friendship."

Yokota's Samurai Taiko Team performed earlier Saturday at the Hamura street festival. Schissler also met with that city's mayor, Shin Namiki.

"I got to see two mayors in one day. It's been an incredibly good afternoon for me," Schissler said. "Today was a great opportunity for our base to reach out."

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@spjtimes.osd.mil

U.S., Iraqi forces kill 15 militants in five-hour clash

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi troops backed by heavy artillery and helicopters killed 15 insurgents in fighting Sunday that began in palm groves and ended in dusty city streets amid a surge of violence across this war-ravaged country.

In other violence, insurgents assassinated a former government official in Baghdad, killed a U.S. soldier in a roadside bombing and gunned down five people in a spate of attacks in Kirkuk, northern Iraq.

The damage came as Iraqis in Baghdad began choosing delegates to a three-day national conference considered a key step in moving the country toward democracy.

The conference, which will select 80 of 100 interim National Assembly members, is scheduled for this week. Organizers refused to confirm the location — and even the exact date — of the conference, fearing it will be a terror attack target.

Militants angry at the presence of foreign forces here and bent on denying efforts to restore order to Iraq following more than two decades of Saddam Hussein's rule have waged a 15-month insurgency, marked by car bombings, assassinations and kidnappings.

A raid Sunday against insurgents in Buhzur, a former Saddam stronghold about 40 miles north of Baghdad, turned into a five-hour battle between militants and U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said the clashes sparked when U.S. and Iraqi National Guard troops conducted a sweep of palm groves believed to be a staging area for anti-coalition attacks.

Insurgents using small arms attacked the Iraqi forces, who chased the attackers into the town's southern areas, the U.S. military said. Iraqi fighters later fired mortars indiscriminately, and the Americans responded with an artillery barrage.

Associated Press Television News recorded several loud explosions, apparently from artillery and mortar fire, booming through Buhzur and bullets ricocheting off building and shop walls.

Residents ran for cover as a U.S. Apache helicopter hovered overhead.

Iraqi fighters, mostly clad in black clothing and ski masks, roamed the streets carrying rifles and rocket propelled grenade launchers.

The military said 15 insurgents were killed.

Qasim Hameed, an emergency worker at the nearby Baquba General Hospital, said two dead Iraqis — a police officer and a civilian — plus six injured civilians were brought to hospital.

It was unclear if the two killed were in addition to those the military reported killed. Yasir Ahmed Ismail, the slain police officer, died in his house when a mortar hit nearby, said police Lt. Mohammed Adel.

The battle followed a U.S. soldier's death Saturday in a roadside bomb attack near Beiji, about 90 miles south of the northern city of Mosul, the military said Sunday.

The soldier, escorting a fuel convoy, suffered serious wounds and died later Saturday. Another soldier was injured.

In Baghdad's al-Dora suburb, gunmen killed Brig. Khaled Dawoud, the former head of Nahiyah district in southern Iraq during Saddam's rule, and his son in a drive-by shooting Sunday, police Lt. Mustafa Abdullah al-Dulaimi said.

Meanwhile, an important Sunni religious group on Sunday condemned the separate abductions of an Egyptian diplomat and seven foreign truck drivers last week.

Militants said they snatched Mohammed Mandouh Helmi Qutb, the third-ranking diplomat at the Egyptian mission here, to deter Egypt from sending security assistance to Iraq's interim government.



Hassan Abid Ali looks at the debris left after an insurgent mortar hit his family's home in Abu Al Khasab, 18 miles south of Barah, Iraq, on Sunday.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 899 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 665 died as a result of hostile action and 234 died of nonhostile causes. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 60 deaths. Iraq has reported 18 in Spain, eight in Bulgaria and Poland, six each in Ukraine, four in Slovakia, three; and Thailand, two. Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 761 U.S. servicemembers have died — 556 as a result of hostile action and 205 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A Marine died Saturday of injuries received in action Friday in Iraq's Anbar Province.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ No identifications reported.

India asks for release of hostages

BY NIRMALA GEORGE

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India made a fresh appeal Sunday for the release of three Indian truck drivers held hostage in Iraq, pleading with their captors to "honor the Islamic way of thinking toward innocents" and citing the centuries-old ties between the two countries.

"The people of India have great faith in the people of Iraq," E. Ahmed, India's junior minister for external affairs, said in the appeal, which he read out in the Arabic language.

"The historical and traditional relationship between the people of Iraq and India is based on mutual trust, confidence and brotherhood," Ahmed said.

An Iraqi group calling itself "The Holders of the Black Banners" last week threatened to behead one captive every 72 hours, beginning Saturday night, if the truck drivers' Kuwaiti employer did not halt operations in Iraq and the hostages' country did not withdraw all its citizens from Iraq.

It urged those demands Friday, saying their employer must pay compensation for those killed by U.S. forces in the city of Fallujah and all Iraqi detainees in Kuwait and U.S. prisons must be released. It gave a 48-hour deadline, but it was unclear if the deadline had been changed to Sunday or if the tape was old.

"Islam teaches everybody to be just and fair and the people of India expect that captors will also honor the Islamic way of thinking toward the innocents," Ahmed said in Sunday's appeal.

Indian officials were holding consultations with their Kuwaiti counterparts about the hostages, the minister said.

"We expect a positive outcome," Ahmed said.

Militants in recent months have kidnapped nearly 70 foreigners in their campaign to force countries to withdraw troops and to scare away contractors working on reconstruction projects. At least three hostages have been beheaded, a practice that has stirred opposition from many Iraqis.

Al-Qaida threatens Australia with 'pools of blood'

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — An online statement by a group representing itself as al-Qaida's European branch threatened on Saturday to turn Australia into "pools of blood" if it doesn't withdraw its troops from Iraq.

It was the second statement in a week by the Tawhid Islamic Group, a previously unknown group which on Wednesday threatened attacks in Bulgaria and Poland if their troops remained in Iraq.

"We call upon you to leave Iraq before your country turns to pools of blood," the statement warned the Australian government.

"We will shake the earth under your feet as we did in Indonesia, and lines of car bombs will not cease, God willing," the statement

said, referring to the 2002 Bali bombing that killed 202 people, many of them Australian tourists.

The al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah was blamed for that attack.

The Tawhid statement also warned Italy to comply with an earlier warning.

"We advise you to accept our offer and if you don't, you will see the lines of cars laden with explosives hit your towns and turn your nights to mornings, God willing. We swear you will see hell with your eyes," the Tawhid statement said.

The statement did not elaborate on what offer it was referring to, but earlier this month, the al-Qaida-linked Brigades of Abu Hafs al-Masri that had threatened a massive strike unless Premier Silvio Berlusconi — a

staunch supporter of President Bush — was removed from office.

Saturday's statement appeared on an Islamic Web site known as a clearing house for al-Qaida and groups linked to the terror network. The group identified itself as "al-Qaida in Europe." The authenticity of the statement and the group could not be verified.

The statement said Australia should follow the model of the Philippines and Spain, which have already pulled their troops out of Iraq.

"It is the right path which will ensure you safe life and security," it said.

"You came to our lands to loot its wealth and God willing we will move the battle to your country as you did to our country, not only in Australia, but all Islamic and Arab countries," the statement read.

Australia has nearly 900 troops in and around Iraq.

Purple Hearts awarded



Spec. Damon Le is one of five 1st Infantry Division soldiers to receive a Purple Heart from U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. B.B. Bell on July 19 at Würzburg Army Hospital. Le, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, was injured July 8.

REBECCA SHARPTON
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Fort Hood GIs killed in murder-suicide

The Associated Press

KILLEEN, Texas — Two Fort Hood soldiers, husband and wife, were found dead in what appeared to be a murder-suicide, authorities said Saturday.

Authorities found Sgt. Erin E. Edwards' body on the front porch of her home early Thursday. She had been shot in the head, Capt. Jackie Dunn said.

The body of Edwards' estranged husband, Sgt. William M. Edwards, was discovered in a parking lot across the street. Police said he suffered what appeared to be a self-inflicted wound.

The soldiers, both 24, had served with the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq before returning to Fort Hood in recent months.

The couple's two young chil-

dren were not home at the time of the shootings, and were believed to be with their mother's family in Pennsylvania, officials said.

In June, William Edwards was arraigned on an assault charge for allegedly hurting his wife. A protection order was issued against him in the past week.

Neighbors told the Killeen Daily Herald police were frequently at the couple's residence because of domestic problems.

Philippino official attacks critics

Security adviser says Philippines not to blame for new threats in Iraq

By JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines lashed out Sunday at Australian accusations that its troop withdrawal from Iraq had sparked a new wave of kidnappings in the war-ravaged country, saying Australia should focus instead on the reasons fueling the insurgency.

The United States and Australia have strongly criticized Manila for withdrawing its token peacekeeping contingent a month early in response to demands by Iraqi insurgents who threatened to behead Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz. The captive was freed and returned to a hero's welcome in the country last week.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on Sunday accused the Philippines of caving in to terrorists after the al-Qaida-linked Towhid Islamic Group threatened to turn Australia into "pools of blood" unless it recalled its troops from Iraq.

The group posted the statement online Saturday.

Downer said that because the Philippines capitulated to the terrorists, six more hostages were taken in Iraq the day after dela Cruz was freed.

"Unfortunately these actions have encouraged terrorists to continue these threats, so now we are subjected, as the Italians are and the Poles and the Bulgarians from this particular group, to further threats," Downer told Nine Network television. "It's very important we send a strong message that we will not be threatened by terrorist groups."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's national security adviser, Norberto Gonzalez, lashed back at Downer for linking the new

threat and kidnappings to the Philippine troop withdrawal.

"It's very narrow-minded," Gonzalez said.

Instead of looking for scapegoats, Australia and other countries in the coalition that invaded Iraq should re-examine why the insurgency there has intensified in recent months despite efforts to quell it militarily and politically, Gonzalez said. He didn't elaborate.

He also said Australia should try to understand the predicament of the Philippines, which wanted to ensure the safety of its workers in the Middle East, including 4,000 in Iraq who could provide more help to rebuild Iraq than the 51-member peacekeeping force that was withdrawn.

"Australia should look not only at its interest but consider our interest too. Our condition is different, we have over a million Filipinos scattered in the Middle East and we need to safeguard them," he said.

While the Philippines sent only a token peacekeeping force in Iraq, Gonzalez cited his country's efforts to fight terrorism in Southeast Asia through cooperation with neighboring nations, including joint counterterrorism training with U.S. troops to better fight foreign extremists in the country.

The Philippines originally sent 100 peacekeepers to Iraq but the number had dwindled to 15 when the hostage crisis erupted.

Seeking to ease strained ties with Washington, Arroyo on Friday reassured the United States and other allies that the Philippines remains committed to the global war on terror.

"Our foreign policy has not changed," Arroyo said. "We share the same goal, but we may not always walk the same path."

U.S. Apaches mistakenly fire on Afghan soldiers; 4 injured

By JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A pair of U.S. AH-64 Apache gunships mistakenly fired on Afghan National Army soldiers, wounding four, early Sunday morning, according to Army officials.

The friendly-fire incident occurred just before dawn in the Taliban stronghold of Uzuin province.

"ANA and coalition soldiers were conducting cordon and search operations of surrounding villages in the area when they came under fire by [anti-coali-

tion] forces on multiple compounds," reads an Army statement.

All four soldiers are expected to recover.

The violence is just the latest in a string of incidents in southern Afghanistan in recent days.

A roadside bomb narrowly missed shredding a U.S. military-protected aid convoy in the same part of southern Afghanistan Thursday.

While no one was hurt in that incident, at least one U.S. soldier was wounded in an attack on Friday as a U.S. Army convoy passed through Kandahar.

Email Jon Anderson at: andersonj@mail.strips.esd.mil

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A Filipino Muslim covers his face with a flag during a rally Sunday in Cotabato City, Philippines, opposing planned U.S. counterterrorism military training. The country is hosting the yearly military training dubbed "Balance Piston" involving Filipino and American troops in an area where the Muslim insurgency is strong.

Filipinos protest U.S. training drills

BY PAT ROQUE

The Associated Press

COTABATO, Philippines — Activists burned a U.S. flag Sunday at a rally against a new U.S. military training program for Filipino troops fighting insurgents and foreign terrorists in the southern Philippines.

At least 20 U.S. Special Forces trainers and 150 Filipino soldiers will participate in the three-week counterterrorism maneuvers starting Monday in Carmen town in North Cotabato province, military officials said.

Muslim separatists and Marxist rebels are active near Carmen, about 558 miles south of Manila. About three dozen activists, including several Muslim students, protested in Cotabato city near Carmen, displaying anti-U.S. placards and burning an American flag marked "No. 1 terrorist."

They said the training would encourage conflicts that victimize innocent Filipinos, and could make the Philippines a target of U.S. enemies.

The protesters dispersed peacefully after two hours, officials said.

Despite some opposition, many local officials back the U.S. training because it could strengthen peace and stability in the south, military officials said.

Small units of Filipino soldiers will be taught unconventional

warfare tactics, night combat, sniping and surveillance techniques, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

Philippine army Col. Isagani Cachueta said the training would be confined to a camp in Carmen for security reasons, and that Filipino soldiers would accompany Americans venturing out for food and to conduct medical missions.

The Americans would be briefed on the local culture, Cachueta said.

The training demonstrates the continuation of the strong Washington-Manila military alliance, he added.

"We need to learn new techniques from the Americans in fighting terrorism," Cachueta said.

Manila's decision to withdraw Filipino peacekeepers from Iraq last week to gain the freedom of a Filipino hostage has strained ties with Washington — but it remained unclear if it would affect U.S. assistance to the Philippines to battle guerrillas.

U.S. troops were first allowed to train Filipino soldiers near Muslim extremist enclaves on the southern island of Basilan two years ago.

American officials have expressed concern about the reported presence in the south of foreign militants, including those from the al-Qaida-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Mexican judge refuses to order ex-leader arrested for genocide

BY JOHN RICE

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A judge has refused to issue an arrest warrant against former President Luis Echeverria, who faces genocide charges for the killing of protesters in a clash with pro-government thugs during a 1971 demonstration.

Judge Jose Cesar Flores did not explain why he denied to issue arrest warrants Saturday against Echeverria and other former top officials allegedly responsible for the deaths.

But defense lawyers had argued there was insufficient evidence to link Echeverria to the killings and that the statute of limitations had run out.

Echeverria, first as interior secretary in the 1960s and as president from 1970-76, allegedly fought a decade-long counterinsurgency campaign against the student pro-democracy movement, as well as small and violent leftist guerrilla groups.

Special prosecutor Ignacio Carrillo, following a two-year investigation, claimed that dozens of stu-



Former president Luis Echeverria

dents died in the "Corpus Christi massacre" on June 10, 1972, but defense lawyer Juan Velazquez claimed only about 11 were killed.

Velazquez also said charges of genocide are not applicable because of a 30-year statute of limitations — a claim that Carrillo rejected.

Prosecutors said they would ap-

peal Flores' decision to the Supreme Court.

The case against Echeverria, the first former leader to face criminal charges in the country's modern history, has threatened to create a crisis in President Vicente Fox's already troubled relationship with Congress. Echeverria's Institutional Revolutionary Party holds the largest bloc of seats and could stop cooperating with Fox if the charges go through.

Many critics question Carrillo's decision to press genocide charges against Echeverria, 82. Most agree that Carrillo filed the genocide charges mainly because it was the only charge — apart from "forced disappearance" — on which the statute of limitations had not already run out, though defense lawyers argued that time limits apply even to genocide.

Few estimates place the death toll in Mexico's "dirty war" at more than 500, some estimates are lower, and details on many cases are sketchy.

Echeverria also has been implicated in a 1968 demonstration known as the massacre of Tlatelolco, during which a larger number of protesters died.

EU ups pressure on Sudan to end fighting

BY PAUL GEITNER

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union foreign ministers were looking to increase pressure on Sudan to end its conflict in Darfur, and would consider Monday whether to join the United States in threatening international sanctions.

Citing "grave concern" at reports of "massive human rights violations" that some have called genocide, EU ministers gathered for a meeting in Brussels were hoping to push Sudan's government and rebel groups to resume peace talks, as well as improve access for relief groups.

"It's almost certain the international community will take further measures if this situation does not improve," Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot, who will chair the meeting, said late Saturday after meeting his Sudanese counterpart, Mustafa Osman Ismail.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also backed the threat of U.N. sanctions unless Sudan disarms Arab militias responsible for killings in Darfur — a threat first made last week by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"The Sudanese government has the duty to guar-

antee people's security and the responsibility of bringing the militias before the courts and taking their weapons to end the violence," Fischer told ZDF television Sunday after talking by phone with Powell.

The violence began 15 months ago when two rebel groups from Darfur's Arab tribes took up arms in a struggle over land and resources with Arab countrymen. Arab militias known as Janjaweed then began a brutal campaign to drive out the black Africans.

Up to 30,000 people, most of them black Africans, have been killed and more than 1 million people have fled their homes. Some 2.2 million are in urgent need of food or medical attention.

The 25-nation EU, the United States and humanitarian groups have accused the Sudanese government of backing the militias — a claim it denies.

The EU wants a political solution to the crisis. Peace talks in Ethiopia last week, however, ended early when Darfur's rebel groups walked out, insisting Sudan's government first honor the terms of previous peace agreements.

After meeting Bot in The Hague, Netherlands, Ismail insisted his country would prosecute the militias but again denied the attacks amounted to genocide.

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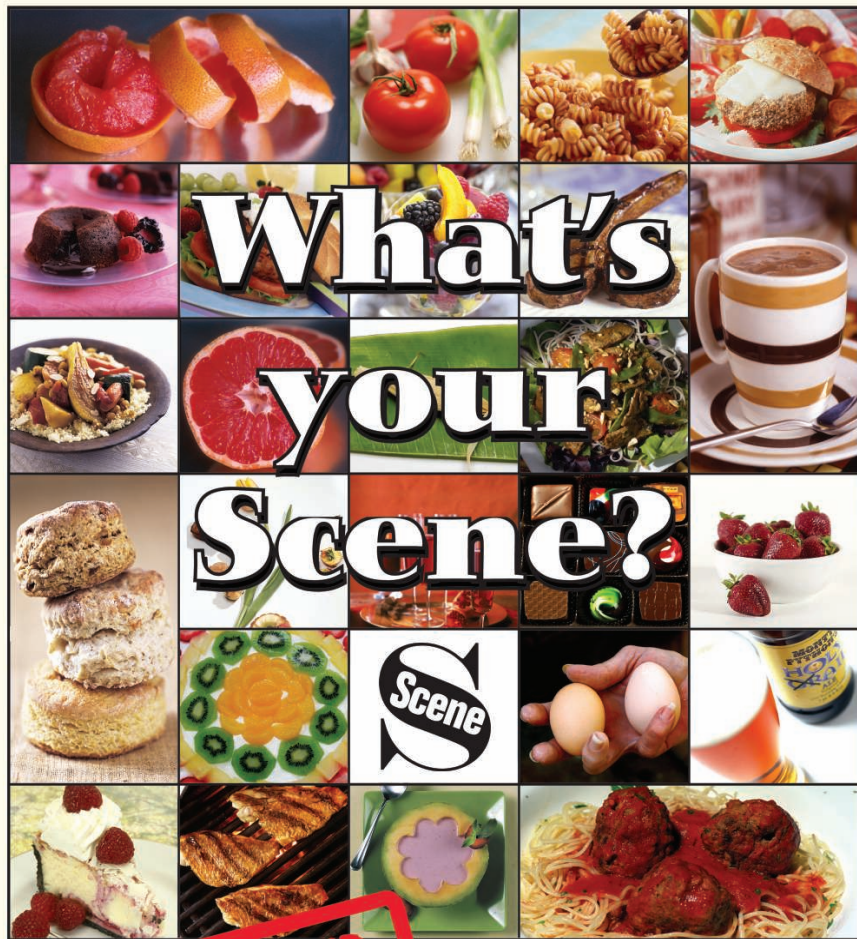
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Kerry looks to sell his message in Boston

Convention to put senator's biography on display, focus on positive

BY DAN BALZ
The Washington Post

BOSTON — United Democrats began assembling here Saturday for a national convention designed to introduce Sen. John Kerry to the country, persuade voters that he can lead a war against terrorism and show that he offers an appealing alternative to President Bush and the Republicans.

With an eye on undecided and swing voters, Kerry and the Democrats begin their convention week exuding confidence, buoyed by surveys showing that the public has more faith in many issues in the Democratic Party than in the Republican Party and that voters remain critical of Bush's handling of the two dominant issues in the campaign, Iraq and the economy.

But the Democrats' self-assurance exists despite the reality that Kerry has struggled to turn broad dissatisfaction with Bush's presidency into stronger support for his own candidacy. Most pre-convention polls continued to show the presidential race within the margin of error and Democrats see the convention as a critical opportunity for Kerry to change the shape of the contest.

"He's not closed the sale," independent pollster Tim Hibbitts said of Kerry in an interview. "Basically his strongest strength is he's not George Bush."

Officials here were rushing to complete preparations for what may be the most unified Democratic convention in recent memory, as thousands of delegates, activists and journalists began arriving to find a city heavily secured against threats of terrorism.

After 18 months in which Democratic candidates and party leaders have pounded the president, Democratic officials promised to put on a positive show this week, at least from the podium inside Boston's FleetCenter. "This is going to be a positive convention," New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, the convention chairman, told reporters Saturday at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Sci-



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts greets supporters following a speech Saturday in Sioux City, Iowa. Thousands have gathered in Boston for the Democratic National Convention, where the party will attempt to sell Kerry to the nation as a politician who is in touch with the center of the political spectrum and a viable replacement for incumbent President Bush.

ence Monitor. "This is not going to be a bash-Bush convention."

Over four nights beginning on Monday, Democrats from former President Bill Clinton to Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy to Kerry's vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards, will highlight Kerry's biography as a combat veteran with two decades of Senate experience while seeking to rebut Republican criticisms that he's too liberal and lacks convictions on critical issues.

"We've got to make the affirmative case, not the negative case," said Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, who's on the convention program.

"There is no doubt that the Democratic base is motivated."

Republicans will be in force all week to challenge what they dub the "extreme make-over" of Kerry at the convention

and party officials hope to see their convention to broaden the candidate's appeal to undecided and swing voters who may hold the key to victory if the race continues to stay close.

"The Democratic gathering here brings to an end an intensive pre-convention campaign period that has seen both sides raise and spend record amounts of money, much of it on television advertising in about 18 battleground states. But for all the activity, the margin between Kerry and Bush has moved little."

Nor did Kerry's selection of Edwards as his vice presidential running mate significantly shift the race in the Democrats' direction.

The two sides are now engaged in a game of expectations over how much of a post-convention bounce in the polls Kerry should expect.

Bush-Cheney chief strategist

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Independent Pollster

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Bush-Cheney chief strategist

Matthew Dowd argues that, based on past history, Kerry should see a 15-point swing, while Kerry officials say that with so few genuinely undecided voters, the bounce will be far more modest.

Those arguments aside, the Democrats say they start their convention ahead of where some past challengers have been. "When you look at past conventions, people are trying to do what Kerry has already done, consolidate their party and try to bring unity to it," said Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill. "We've accomplished that already."

A new poll by the Pew Research Center found the Democrats' image is significantly better than it was on the eve of the 2002 mid-term congressional and gubernatorial elections, when the Republicans made historic gains. On both the economy and terrorism, the Democrats have gained ground and are now seen by the public as better equipped to deal with the economy and roughly even with Bush and the Republicans on terrorism, where Bush once held a big lead.

The Democrats plan to make Kerry the singular focus of their convention this week in the hope that he can fill out a profile that remains only partially completed in the minds of many voters.

The Bush campaign's Mehlman said Kerry so far has failed to do what Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, the two successful Democratic candidates of the past two decades, had done by the time of their conventions.

"The only Democrats who have succeeded have defined themselves as being different kind of Democrats," he said. "It's hard to argue that John Kerry has done that" since wrapping up his nomination.

Kerry hopes to use his convention to do that, but in an environment that no recent challenger has confronted, one in which terrorism has reshaped the presidency and to some extent the voters' checklist of what they want in a commander in chief.



President Bush speaks Thursday at the Northwestern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. Bush has an early edge in projected Electoral College votes, according to The Associated Press.

Electoral College math favorable for Bush

BY RON FOURNIER
The Associated Press

BOSTON — John Kerry narrowly trails President Bush in the battle for the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, as he makes his case at the Democratic National Convention this week to topple the Republican incumbent.

Tall hurdles remain in his path, including Electoral College math that favors Bush.

"It's a tough, tough map. I think it's going to be a close race," said Democratic strategist Tad Devine, who helped plot Al Gore's state-by-state strategy in 2000 and plays the same role for Kerry.

"But looking back four years, we're much stronger now. I think we're going into this convention in great shape," he said.

With three months remaining in a volatile campaign, Kerry has 14 states and Washington, D.C. in his column for 193 electoral votes.

Bush has 25 states for 217 votes, according to an

Associated Press analysis of state polls as well as interviews with strategists across the country.

Both candidates are short of the magic 270 electoral votes. The margin of victory will come from:

■ **Tossups:** Bush and Kerry are running even in 11 states with a combined 128 electoral votes. Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Michigan and West Virginia are the toughest battlegrounds. Two other tossups, Pennsylvania and Oregon, could soon move to Kerry's column.

■ **Lean Kerry:** Maine, Minnesota and Washington (a combined 25 electoral votes) favor Kerry over Bush by a few percentage points.

Gore carried them in 2000.

■ **Lean Bush:** North Carolina, Colorado, Louisiana, Arizona, Virginia, Arkansas and Missouri (a combined 73 electoral votes) give Bush modest leads. He won all seven in 2000.

All total, 21 states are in play. Some will bounce between "lean" and "tossup" throughout the campaign.

Picketing avoided

BOSTON — Boston firefighters reached a contract agreement Sunday with the city after a marathon session of negotiations, averting union picketing at delegation welcoming parties for the Democratic National Convention.

The firefighters were the last big union left without a contract, and in the days that led up to this week's convention, there had been lingering concerns of union strife interfering with the four-day event.

The convention began Monday, but delegates began descending on Boston on Saturday, and scores of welcoming parties were planned throughout the city.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Three killed in crash landing



Authorities stand by the wreckage of a twin-engine plane that crashed on a residential Fort Collins, Colo., street Saturday, killing three people in the plane. Fort Collins police spokeswoman Rita Davis said the plane didn't hit any homes and no one on the ground was injured. Firefighters and officers blocked off part of the area after spilled fuel ignited and damaged a nearby van.

House to discuss terror in rare August hearings

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate and House committees will hold an unusual round of August hearings on intelligence reform after leaders of the Sept. 11 commission warned that America remained vulnerable to another deadly terror strike.

"The American people expect us to act," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairwoman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, said Friday. "We don't have the luxury of waiting for months."

Collins and the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, said they would invite the commission's leaders, Republican chairman Thomas Keen and Democratic vice chairman Lee Hamilton, to testify.

The hearings will focus on two of the commission's key recommendations: creating a national counterterrorism center and a new director of intelligence to be confirmed by the Senate, with Cabinet-level authority over budgets and intelligence policies.

Congress began its recess Friday and was to be out of session until after Labor Day.

"This is a crisis. People died, and more people will unless we get it together," Lieberman said.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also urged the committee to introduce legislation by Oct. 1 addressing the intelligence proposals. The committee said it would do so.

Late Friday, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who has expressed doubt that lawmakers would have time to consider a sweeping intelligence overhaul this year, said he and Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, would also direct House committees to hold hearings next month and make recommendations for legislation in September.

Earlier in the day, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California urged Hastert in a letter to reconvene the House in August. Hastert responded that he would seek hearings "over the next several months." He later announced the August hearings.

"The House plans to immediately assess everything we have done ... since 9/11 and everything more we need to do," Hastert said.

Keen, a former New Jersey governor, and Hamilton, a former congressman from Indiana, told reporters Friday that swift action was critical.

Charges unlikely in terror leak

Ethics panel to weigh evidence against Alabama senator

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has referred to the Senate Ethics Committee an investigation into whether a Republican senator or his staff leaked classified information, indicating that criminal charges are highly unlikely, a federal law enforcement official said.

The referral Thursday means that it is now up to the ethics panel to decide if any action is warranted against Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, who was vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Both the House and Senate intelligence committees were also briefed by prosecutors and the FBI about the findings of the investigation, the law enforcement official said Saturday, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the probe remains official in open.

The investigation concerned the 2002 disclosure to news reporters of two messages intercepted by the National Security Agency a day before the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Those messages contained the words "the match begins tomorrow" and "tomorrow is zero day" but they were not translated from Arabic until Sept. 12.



The Justice Department has referred an investigation into whether Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., or his staff leaked classified information to the Senate Ethics Committee.

The intercepts had been disclosed by the NSA director, Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, during a private meeting of a joint House-Senate intelligence committee that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks.

Shelby was on the panel at the time.

Shelby has adamantly denied any wrongdoing and said he and his staff cooperated in the investigation. His spokeswoman, Virginia Davis, refused comment Saturday night and referred reporters to the senator's statement issued in January.

"My position on this issue is clear and well-known: no time during my career as a United States Senator and, more particularly, at no time during my service as chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have I ever knowingly compromised classified information," Shelby said in that statement.

Man detained in Egypt

LOS ANGELES — A California man who was detained in Egypt for nearly a week says he was beaten and questioned before authorities released him without explanation.

Abdul Ghafour Mahboob, a naturalized U.S. citizen who lives in Los Angeles, told the Los Angeles Times he was repeatedly beaten with a stick on his thighs and punched in the stomach and head.

Mahboob, 26, said he was at the Cairo airport July 16, on his way home after spending the last seven months studying Arabic, when guards stopped him for what they said was a routine security check.

Mahboob said the officials handcuffed and blindfolded him and drove him to a prison.

Mahboob said he was asked questions about his family, education, work and mosque affiliation in the United States, but not about his political views.

From The Associated Press

Nephew's death in Iraq personalizes death-benefits debate for Ill. senator

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A state senator learned his nephew had been killed in Iraq as the Illinois Senate debated death benefits for military personnel during a special budget session.

Republican Sen. Dave Sullivan was listening to the discussion on the Senate floor Saturday when he was told his 22-year-old nephew, Marine Lance Cpl. Vincent Sullivan, was killed Friday while serving his second tour of duty in Iraq, according to Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson.

"Suddenly and tragically, the legislation we were discussing about military benefits became starkly personal for one of our colleagues," said Watson, a Republican.

The Senate approved the legislation, which extends the state's traditional military death benefits to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, then observed a moment of silence for Sullivan and his family. The senator stayed through Saturday's session, helping the Senate approve a long-delayed state budget.

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Comic-Con offers up a geeky good time

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A real superhero convention would perhaps showcase the latest in bulletproof capes or underground-lair interiors or decorating. But the annual Comic-Con event doesn't specialize in reality.

Giant killer robots, Spider-Man's guide to New York City and Keanu Reeves as a man who literally has been to hell and back were some of the high attractions Friday at the 35th annual gathering.

Reeves, whose black-cloaked "Matrix" character is a favorite costume choice of some attendees, was there to promote his latest role in a comic book adaptation titled "Constantine."

He said this was his second time at the event, and offered up a "whoa" of sorts in praise of its geeky chic.

"I think anything where there's enthusiasm and a place to come together to share what you think is cool and have the kind of opportunity to come together... it's awesome," he said.

The event originated with comic books, but now includes movies, TV shows, toys, music and every other conceivable medium. Geeky? Unmistakably yes.

But there's no better place to get a sneak peek at the latest from the worlds of sci-fi, fantasy and superheroes.

Hollywood studios began invading the convention in recent years, seeing it as a chance not only to promote upcoming movies but also to test the reaction of fick-

le fans.

"Comic-Con has become THE place to initially mount a campaign, whether it's a comic book announcement, a video game or a genre film," said David Goyer, the screenwriter of the upcoming "Batman Begins," and writer-director of "Blade: Trinity," the third in the vampire-hunter saga.

Goyer touted "Batman Begins" along with actor Cillian Murphy, who plays the villain Scarecrow, at a panel discussion attended by more than 6,000 people Friday afternoon.

"I think had we not had a presence here it would have been a glaring omission," Goyer told to a reporter. "First and foremost, everyone would have said, 'Are they trying to hide something?'"

As it turns out, they were — one of the first questions a fan asked Murphy was: What does Scarecrow look like? The filmmakers had banned him from answering that one.

From the world of paper comic books, the industry leaders Marvel and DC were both present to show off their latest takes of Superman, Daredevil, Batman, and of course Spider-Man.

Some of the presentations ranged from the insightful — like the analytical "Superman on the couch" session that explored the psyche of the Man of Steel — to the somewhat silly, like the "Marvel Super Heroes' Guide to New York City," in which legendary comics scribe Stan Lee and assorted other Marvel editors talked about how the Big Apple influenced their storytelling over the years.

Many of the attendees (there were 75,000 last year) say the big



Drawn as Star Wars characters, Yvette Perono and her brother Steven Perono talk as they ride the escalator at the San Diego Convention Center during the annual Comic-Con convention Saturday.

draw of Comic-Con is not the celebrities but the costumes.

Lara Carver, 34, a school nurse from Las Vegas, showed up dressed as Wonder Woman in a red cape and red-white-and-blue

bustier outfit.

"I was really nervous yesterday and I kept having panic attacks, but it's not so bad now, because everyone is like 'Ooh, Wonder Woman!'" she said.

Aldo Cos, 43, a schoolteacher from Los Angeles, was a lone "Star Trek" officer among a group of Klingon friends dressed in body armor and rubber, rippled foreheads.

"He's our token Federation human," said Joan Jones, 39, one of the Klingons.

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Saving for child's college

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Many people put off saving for their child's college education because they believe having less to contribute will entitle their son or daughter for more financial aid.

It's a mistake that will cost you twice — once when your child is choosing a college, and again after he or she has graduated, according to David Braverman, a vice president at Standard & Poor's and author of the new book, "Saving and Investing for College."

The lack of savings hits first by limiting where you can afford to send your child after he or she has been accepted. Although you may indeed qualify for more aid, "most of the initial layer is in the form of loans that you'll have to pay back," Braverman said. The less you have saved, the more your child may have to borrow.

Those loans will then hold back your child financially after graduation.

Graduates with immense loans often hold off on major life events — getting married or buying a car or a home — until they pay off their loans, Braverman added.

Whether your child is almost ready to attend college or still younger, consider a state-sponsored 529 savings plan. You (and any other relatives who want to help) can contribute up to \$55,000 a year.

The money is invested in mutual funds and grows tax-free until it is withdrawn.

However, be aware the legislation for tax-free withdrawals will expire in 2010.

Before you sign up for a 529, research your state's program thoroughly, Braverman advises. Risk factors, fees and investment options vary widely.

Several states even have multiple plans.

No matter how you choose to invest, you can take the job upon yourself or (for a fee) hire a broker or a financial professional.

'Star Wars' fanatics get special treat

SAN DIEGO — The final "Star Wars" prequel is just "Episode III" no more. Lucasfilm has announced its full title: "Revenge of the Sith."

The movie, set for release in May 2005, will link the prequels with the original "Star Wars" trilogy by showing how Luke Skywalker's father, Anakin, went from a sweet-natured slave boy to the galaxy-crushing villain Darth Vader.

The Sith is the evil sect that corrupts Anakin (played by Hayden Christensen) by drawing him into the dark side of the Force, the cosmic power that balances the universe.

Lucasfilm announced the title Saturday at Comic-Con.

It was a risky move — some of the notoriously fickle "Star Wars" admirers initially bristled at previous prequel titles "The Phantom Menace" and "Attack of the Clones."

"Star Wars" creator and filmmaker George Lucas did not attend the event, but sent fan relations chief Steve Sansweet in his place.

There was one other announcement for fans: "Revenge of the Sith" T-shirts would go on sale inside Comic-Con's main hall in five minutes.

— The Associated Press

Another of their friends, Jacqueline Vorhies, was dressed only as herself in a T-shirt and shorts. But she, too, had to play.

"I'm the human captive of the humpheads," she said, using a presumably racist Klingon slur, "I assist as ordered."

Teen not lovin' what she found in dessert

The Associated Press

SAN BENITO, Texas — A teenager says she found a partially smoked, quarter-inch long marijuana cigarette in her frozen yogurt parfait at a McDonald's in South Texas.

Valerie Valle, 16, of Round Rock and seven other family members were returning home Thursday from a weeklong vacation on South Padre Island when they stopped for breakfast, the Valley Morning Star in Harlingen reported Saturday.

Valle said she waited in line to return the parfait and replied "a thank you's" when asked if she wanted another one. The restaurant refunded the money.

According to a San Benito police report, only two McDonald's

employees made parfaits that morning. Restaurant management told police the employees take drug tests.

Police said they used marijuana cigarette as evidence.

No charges have been filed and no arrests have been made.

"We're conducting our own internal investigation into this incident," said Joe Magliolo, operations manager for the company that owns the McDonald's franchise. "Obviously, it would be inappropriate to come to any conclusions as to what did or did not happen until all the facts are known."

Chief Building Inspector Joe Avila said the McDonald's passed a city health inspection Friday morning. Avila said the restaurant's management requested a city health inspection for the building following the incident.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (July 26)	107.00
S. Korean won (July 26)	1,133.00
British pound	\$1.252
	\$1.88

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.838
Canada (Dollar)	0.721
Denmark (Krone)	6.105
Egypt (Pound)	4.130
Euro	\$1.2104
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.793
Hungary (Forint)	209.05
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,548
Israel (Shekel)	4.494
Japan (Yen)	110.09
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	6.9568
Philippines (Peso)	56.00
Poland (Zloty)	3.48
Singapore (Dollar)	1.746
South Africa (Rand)	6.000
Switzerland (Franc)	1.267
Thailand (Baht)	48.775

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), consult your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign bank rates, not the rates of the U.S. dollar, the British pound, the euro, which is represented in the pound, and the yen, which is dollars-to-yen.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc exchange	
Gold	\$390.50
Silver	\$6.334

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
3-month bill	1.36
3-month note	1.36
3-month T-bill	1.36
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

FACES 'N' PLACES

Rowling is expecting third baby

"Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling said Saturday she is expecting her third child.

Rowling, 38, made the announcement on her official Web site.



Rowling

"I am really delighted to say that I am expecting a third baby, who is due next year," she said. "I always wanted three children, so I could not be happier."

Rowling's son, David, was born last year following her marriage to Neil Murray in 2001. She has a daughter, Jessica, from a previous marriage to Jorge Arantes.

The author reassured fans that the pregnancy would not affect the release of the next book in the Potter installment, which will be titled

"Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince."

"Let me reassure you that book six remains well on track and, fingers crossed of course, I don't foresee any baby-related interruptions or delays," Rowling said.

"I still can't say for sure when it will be finished, but I have written a lot and I really like it."

Eisner a 'Fahrenheit' fan

Disney chief executive Michael Eisner has seen "Fahrenheit 9/11," the film that The Walt Disney Co. refused to distribute — and he liked it.

"The reason it is a hit is it's entertaining," Eisner said last week. "I thought it was like going to a rock concert. I loved it, but not in a political [sense]."

Eisner spoke in Aspen, Colo., at Fortune magazine's fourth annual Brainstorm conference, co-hosted by The Aspen Institute.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" criticizes President Bush's response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the war in Iraq.

Eisner has said Disney decided not to distribute the film because its shareholders and customers do not expect it to be a partisan company.



Eisner

Breaking into the biz

After 15 years as a truck driver, the father of "American Idol" Fantasia Barrino is forming his own record label.

His company's first project will be gospel in nature and will "return to the roots" of the Barrino family. Joe Barrino said the movie. He plans to collaborate with his nephews, K-Ci and JoJo, who had a hit in 1998 with "All My Life," and his sons, who are in a group called Infinity.

Barrino said he also plans to dabble in R&B and country and clean up rap music, while trying to establish an entertainment industry in his family's hometown of Hope Point, N.C.

"The door is open. We can do everything we need to do right here... Let's be a Hollywood. Let's be an Atlanta. Let's be a New York. Let's be a Chicago. Why can't we do it?... These are our plans," he said.

Statue of the king

Fans of Elvis Presley are trying to raise \$80,000 to have a statue of the rock 'n' roll icon created in time for the 50th anniversary of Presley's first appearance on "Louisiana Hayride."

Friends of the Municipal Auditorium in Shreveport, La., and a fan club known as Elvis Angels plan to ask the Downtown Development Authority this week for money, said Johnny Wessler, past president of the auditorium group.

Artist Eric Kaposta of Houston, who formerly lived in Shreveport, said he could have the statue ready in time for the Oct. 16 anniversary if backers can come up with \$20,000, Wessler said.

Wessler said Kaposta has created a bust of Presley that bears such an accurate resemblance to the singer that Memphis, Tenn.-based Elvis Presley Enterprises, which handles Presley's image, agreed to sanction the project.

"The statue will be on a tremendously large granite base that will tell a story and include lyrics from his songs," Wessler said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

At the gate



Los Angeles Times

British actor Clive Owen unintentionally finds himself poised for American stardom

BY LUAINE LEE

Knight Rider/Tribune

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — When he was a school kid in Britain's lower-class Midlands, Clive Owen wanted to be an actor. He didn't even try to hide his passion from his jarring schoolmates.

"Here was me and this guy Dominic, who wanted to be a guitarist. He said 'guitarist' and I'd say 'actor,' and they'd go, 'Ye-a-a-w-h.' The teacher would encourage them to laugh. 'Get real.' But I was a stupid little thing, that's what I kept saying I was going to do."

The star of films like "The Bourne Identity," "Croupier," and now "King Arthur" did it all right, but not the usual way.

He joined a youth theater but when those plays dried up, he found himself "hanging out and signing on."

Signing on, in England, means signing up for welfare and choosing a trade where you might be useful.

For Owen it was carpentry, which absorbed his interest about as much as astrophysics.

Always stubborn, he clung to his dream. Now, as the legendary sovereign in "King Arthur," Owen seems to personify that man of mythic ambitions — both on screen and in real life.

When a teacher first suggested he try studying acting, he rejected the idea.

"I was an arrogant little so-and-so, I said, 'You can't teach people to act, I'm not going to acting school.' She said, 'Clive, that's the way in, that's what you have to do.'"

"I signed on — unemployed for two years in carpentry and thought, 'How am I ever going to be an actor, sitting here signing on in carpentry every week?' I tried to make the money last over two weeks. By the end that was being stretched to the breaking point, because you signed on to carpentry, you're not going to get acting jobs poured in your lap."

Owen, 38, said he had no other options.

He eventually did apply to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts with little hope that he'd be accepted. Two years later he was accepted.

After training, he started landing work.

"I did a small film that nobody saw and never got released. I did a BBC drama and had quite a nice part, with little gaps in between. It wasn't flooding forward. Then suddenly I landed a very big TV series called 'Chancer,' and it was very much based around me and my character. And the whole campaign was pushing me to the front, and I never looked back."

Even so, sudden fame was unnerving to the reticent actor.

"I hated it. I found it very uncomfortable. Because in the U.K., TV is tabloid fodder so I was suddenly thrown into all the tabloid newspapers."

Fortunately he married former actress Sarah Jane Fenton, who helped him get a grip. "I basically pulled out, stopped doing press for a year, didn't talk to anyone, and got a very bad reputation, but I just thought, 'I need my time with this,'" he said.

"From then on I consciously tried to stay elusive. I've always mixed TV, theater and film up. I was very tempted — I could have become the guy with all the cash. I got off. I wanted to be in for the long haul. I didn't want them to chew me up and spit me out."

The TV series "Second Sight" elevated him to the top of the game and the small film "Croupier" earned him an enviable reputation in the United States. American roles followed, including the assassin in "The Bourne Identity," the relief worker in "Beyond Borders," the ex-con in "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead."

But he didn't come to conquer America, said Owen, seated at a white-clothed table in a meeting room of a hotel here.

"It opened up for me, I didn't come here looking for it. It just happened by fluke with that little film, 'Croupier,' which came and made an impact and introduced me to an American audience. I wasn't aiming to come and break America; I was perfectly content in England doing the work I was doing. I didn't feel I was missing out on anything. I love making movies, I want to make movies. They've never made that many in the U.K., but I was still very fulfilled and very determined to do theater, and suddenly 'Croupier' introduced me to an American audience and my life hasn't been quite the same since."

STARS AND STRIPES

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Don't lead young lady astray

Just so the "thoughtful and civic-minded young lady" who wrote the June 26 letter "Bush needs our support" — to which the July 12 letter "Bush's acts can't be forgiven" responded — isn't led astray:

■ George W. Bush was elected by a majority of voting Americans, but even if he wasn't it doesn't matter. Several presidents have lost the popular vote and still become president. Our system was designed that way for a reason. Our Founding Fathers did not trust pure democracy, which is why we have a representative republic. Just look at the famous red/blue map of the last election to realize why an Electoral College is important.

■ What good will and cooperation of the world have ever existed without us paying dollars for it? This great country has the power to rule this world with the press of a button but it chooses not to. Hundreds of thousands of Americans died in the last century to free this world from tyranny, yet Britain seems to be our only trusted friend. Russia, France and the United Nations should feed from the mouths of Iraqi children and at the same time actively oppose us as we try to coax the world to abide by U.N. resolutions toward Iraq. That is good will!

■ If one wants to speak of lost opportunities, I don't think the Bush administration should be held accountable; definitely President Carter for his near destruction of the

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance to the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or name and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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combined. Imagine if the others had done half as much.

■ What police state? No one has passed any laws lately to infringe on my Second Amendment rights. People complaining about the last election aren't in jail for treason. I haven't seen any weapons like the Branch Davigides burned alive lately and I still Ruby Ridge is safe. The only citizens who are scared, that I have seen, are the Hollywood types.

■ Bill Gates is a billionaire. He probably got a bigger tax cut than I did. Guess what, Bill Gates donated more money to charity last year than I will make in my lifetime. He probably paid more taxes last year than I will pay in my lifetime. He employs more people than all the units in my unit. I have served for the last 19 years. Those employees buy things with their salaries from other companies that hire other people. I'm glad the "rich" got a tax break last year. Do you have a tax cut? I think government could have bought us out of the damage 9/11 did to our economy?

To the writer of "Bush's acts can't be forgiven." I have an idea on how to relieve your stress about our government and my stress from realising I have been risking my life for the last 19 years to protect your interests. Find a better country with a better president than this one, then move there.

Lloyd Anderson
Mannheim, Germany

9/11 report won't stop theoreticians

BY PHILIP A. KLINKNER

With the release of their report, the members of the 9/11 commission undoubtedly hope to provide the fullest account of the events surrounding 9/11.

But history is any guide, the commission's report will do little to quell the controversy surrounding 9/11. Indeed, as with previous commissions, the report likely will only fuel further questions and speculation.

Any commission, no matter how thorough, can never examine all of the evidence. Indeed, new evidence often comes to light only after the commission issues its report, and other information may never be known. In addition, even the most authoritative commission findings will fail to satisfy the conspiratorially inclined.

Perhaps the first example of a government commission appointed to investigate a controversial event was in 1898, when the U.S. Navy tried to determine why the battleship Maine exploded and sank in Havana harbor. After a cursory review of the evidence — and undoubtedly influenced by anti-Spanish, pro-war sentiment in the country — the commission claimed that an underwater mine was the likely cause.

A second commission in 1912 made a more detailed examination of the ship's wreckage and came to a similar finding. Nonetheless, doubts about this conclusion

have been raised since the sinking and after more than a century, we still have no clear answer for the main cause.

More than four decades after the Maine tragedy, the U.S. government established the Roberts commission to investigate the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Named for its chairman, Supreme Court Justice Owen Roberts, the commission found that the U.S. government had no foreknowledge of the attack and that responsibility for Pearl Harbor's unpreparedness rested with the local commanders. The commission's report, along with the similar findings of seven other official commissions, failed to end speculation that President Franklin D. Roosevelt and others knew about the impending attack and failed to respond in order to ensure that an otherwise reluctant American public would enter World War II. Such theories still command credence.

Perhaps the most controversial U.S. government commission was the Warren commission, charged with investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

To say that the commission failed to end the controversy over the Kennedy assassination is an understatement. The commission's conclusion that the lone Oswald acted alone is widely challenged by theories purporting to show that the Mafia, the CIA, the KGB, J. Edgar Hoover, Lyndon Johnson, Fidel Castro or some combination of the above were behind the assassination.

Despite the lack of evidence for these theories, most Americans continue to reject the commission's finding. An ABC News poll on the 40th anniversary of the assassination found that less than a quarter of Americans think Oswald acted alone.

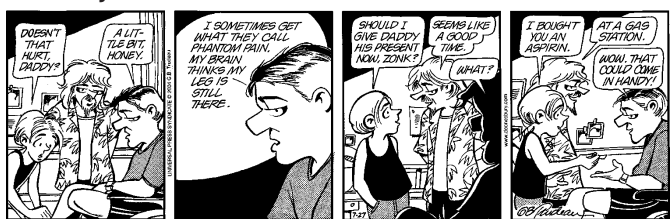
The 9/11 commission seems likely to follow in the path of its predecessors. Even before the release of its report, Americans have polarized over who was responsible for the attacks and why the U.S. government failed to prevent them. And echoing earlier charges regarding D.C. and Pearl Harbor, some have even gone so far as to question whether the Bush administration deliberately allowed the attacks to occur in order to advance its own interests...

Oswald and the 9/11 hijackers took their thoughts to the grave. And into this vacuum of ignorance steps what historian Richard Hofstadter called "the paranoid style" of U.S. politics.

Many have always seen conspiracies lurking beneath the surface of American politics, but such thoughts are particularly evident in the wake of tragic events, as though something as horrible as 9/11 can only be the result of dark forces. Given this 9/11 report will not mark the end of, but just another stage in, what will surely be an enduring controversy.

Philip A. Klinkner is associate professor of government at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OMBUDSMAN

Iraq coverage not tripped up by the wires

This is the second in a series of columns on the coverage by Stars and Stripes of the conditions in Iraq since April 2004, which was the first anniversary of the fall of Baghdad.

Ombudsman



Joe Ungaro

The first one, headlined "Discovering whether Stripes stories cover all bases," appeared in the June 28 edition.

Shortly after I began reviewing coverage of Iraq by the three editions of Stripes (European, Mideast and Pacific), a Stripes reader serving in the U.S. Army in Europe sent this e-mail to the ombudsman:

"Do you think the media in general adequately covers the support we provide in the reconstruction of Iraq? The perception by some is that the media is biased against the war and is always looking for fire under the smoking gun?"

I responded that I was doing this study and would try to answer, referring to Stripes and a group of papers that I was using as a comparison. These included national newspapers, a statewide paper and a 12,000-circulation hometown newspaper.

Stripes is designed to be a "hometown" newspaper for military personnel serving overseas. Its role is to cover "local news" — that information of special interest to military personnel no matter where they are serving.

This local focus is complemented by the news reports of The Associated Press and supplemental wire services such as the Washington Post/Los Angeles Times to create a complete newspaper. This column looks at the wire service coverage. The next column will look at how Stripes has performed its role of covering "local military news."

The e-mail writer raises a valid question anyone with which the newspaper profession has been concerned for more than a decade. In July 2003 the Pew Institute, which is a nonprofit foundation with great interest in improving the quality of journalism, did a major study on newspaper credibility. Their report stated that for 15 years readers and viewers have been telling us we have a problem. Two-thirds think we don't report all sides of a story fairly. Fifty-eight percent believe we frequently or occasionally make up stories. Fifty-six percent judge us as often inaccurate.

The profession's journalistic societies have focused on too many unnamed sources, opinion in news stories, failure to label a reporter's opinion as "analysis," lack of follow-up and failure to correct errors completely and promptly as the reasons for people's mistrust of journalism.

What did I find?

■ The national papers published too many stories with too many unnamed sources. The Associated Press, which provides most of Stripes' national and international news, sent a much smaller number of stories with unnamed sources.

Unnamed sources, I believe, constitute the key element in the loss of credibility for newspapers. They take away from the reader the ability to make his or her own judgment on the validity of what he/she is reading.

Unnamed sources and opinion in news stories, as well as news stories not properly labeled as analysis, were not a significant issue in Stripes. The wire copy that was chosen and how it was edited met proper journalistic standards. Only six AP stories that were published in Stripes contained unnamed sources.

I can't say the same for several of the newspapers I read as a comparison. The most egregious ununsourced AP story I saw

did not appear in Stripes. It quoted a U.S. military official in Baghdad as saying the insurgency in Iraq is led by well-armed Sunnis angry about losing power, not foreign fighters, and is far larger than previously thought.

The unnamed source provided no supporting information or how he/she came to that opinion. And the readers had to make a judgment without knowing whose opinion it was. The article also needed an "analysis" label.

■ The opinion of journalists creeps into too many stories. The opinion should be edited out or the story needs to be labeled "analysis." I found five stories in Stripes where the "analysis" label should have been used and wasn't. In two of the cases, the "analysis" label was added in a later edition.

Overall the AP versions used by Stripes were well-done or well-edited by Stripes or a combination of both. But that was not the case with a number of stories that included opinion or were not labeled as a column or "analysis" that I saw in U.S. newspapers.

■ Coverage has become event-driven. The impact of competing 24-hour cable news networks is, more information is provided sooner, but less perspective and less reliability as to the detail and importance is seen because of the rush to get on the air and/or the use of unnamed sources.

■ Another problem is the lack of follow-up stories. There are far fewer follow-ups and fewer stories that are about positive actions and/or progress being made. This was clearly observed in the wire service coverage of Iraq. I don't think this is because of bias. It is more the result, I think, of not enough staff resources to cover "the events" of the day and do follow-up and in-depth stories.

One example of this was a story by Christopher Torchia of The Associated Press in Stripes' Europe and Mideast editions on May 18 (it appeared in the Pacific editions on May 19) that reported:

"BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb contained deadly sarin nerve agent exploded near a U.S. military convoy, the U.S. military said Monday. It was apparently a leftover from Saddam Hussein's arsenal, but it was uncertain if more such weapons were in the hands of insurgents." (Note: The second sentence in the version that appeared in the Europe and Mideast editions read: "It was believed to be the first confirmed discovery of any of the banned weapons that the United States cited in making its case for the Iraq war.")

"Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the results were from a field test, which can be imperfect, and more analysis needed to be done.... Rumsfeld said it may take some time to determine precisely what the chemical was. (Note: This paragraph did not appear in the Europe and Mideast editions, which have earlier dated



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

From left to right: Spc. Keith Haynie, Sgt. Aaron Bibb, Spc. Kyle Clayton, Spc. Billy Burrus and Spc. Owen Starlin of the 1st Cavalry Division took part in capturing a weapons cache in May outside Baghdad. Stripes reporter Terry Boyd wrote about it, but the information didn't appear in many other newspapers.

lines than the Pacific edition.)

"Two former weapons inspectors — Hans Blix and David Kay — said the shell was likely a stray weapon that had been scavenged by militants and did not signify that Iraq had large stockpiles of such weapons."

"The Iraq Survey Group confirmed today that a 155 mm artillery round containing sarin nerve agent had been found, (Gen. Mark) Kimmitt said. The round had been rigged as an IED (improvised explosive device) which was discovered by a U.S. force convoy."

On May 20, Stripes published this story by Terry Boyd, one of its reporters, in the Europe and Mideast editions:

"CAMP BLACK JACK, Iraq — Any way you look at it, it was a big score."

"First Cavalry Division officials are analyzing the shells, trying to determine if they're conventional 155 mm artillery shells or if they contain other substances, including sarin nerve gas or phosphorus, said Maj. Derk von Recum, spokesman for the 1st Cav's 2nd Brigade."

"On Saturday, a roadside bomb using a 155 mm shell filled with sarin exploded in Baghdad. It is unclear whether the bomb is connected to this weapons cache."

The AP story appeared on inside pages with modest headlines in a number of U.S. newspapers. I did not see the information in the May 20 Stripes story in any paper I read. And nearly two months later, I have seen no follow-up by either The AP or Stripes.

In my opinion, the stories call for a follow-up. And I believe that a story on what the Iraq Survey Group has been doing is long overdue.

Another example: The bombing of the oil pipelines in Iraq receive substantial cov-

erage — and my notes show this happened at least three times. The stories always included "dire warnings" about what it was doing to Iraq oil production. Three or four days later there would be a story of the damages being fixed and oil flowing — but little detail on how it was repaired so quickly or what efforts were being taken to protect the pipelines.

As far as positive news is concerned, the most positive AP story I saw in Stripes was on June 30 in the Europe and Mideast editions with a headline "Iraq talk radio callers welcome, encourage incoming government." And I certainly don't feel that there was very much information in any of the pieces I read in the last three months of a positive nature on the reconstruction of Iraq.

My response to the reader who sent the e-mail: You should make your judgment on the press, not in general, but in the newspaper or newspapers you read. The credibility line divides, in my opinion, on what you find in your newspaper.

On the negative side: Are there many stories in your newspaper with unnamed sources? Are there unattributed opinions in news stories? Are there articles containing viewpoints that are not labeled as analysis?

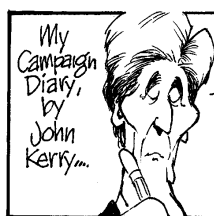
On the positive side: Are stories followed up consistently? Is there a search for both sides of what happened at a "news event"? Is there an effort to look at the positive developments of a news situation?

The next column will look at the efforts of Stripes staffers to provide for their audience "local coverage" of Iraq.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian (410) 364-0523. Fax (410) 364-0506. Or e-mail ombudsman@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



...been on the trail with John-Boy for three weeks now. I'm handling our past disagreements. I'm handling our regional differences...

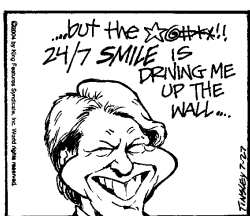


Illustration by Dave Coverly

Girl drowns in pool

CA ELK GROVE — A baby sitter did all she could do in an attempt to free a drowning 8-year-old girl whose hair had become caught in a swimming pool's filter system, police said Friday.

The 22-year-old baby sitter was watching Haven Scarborough and her 10-year-old sister swim, Corcoran said, but when the 8-year-old's shoulder-length hair became stuck, the baby sitter was not able to pull the girl from the water. After three minutes, the girl was finally freed when someone cut her hair with a knife. CPR efforts failed.

'No tag' doesn't fly

DE WILMINGTON — A vanity license tag chosen as a gag has left its owner holding the bag.

Cara thought the "NOTAG" plate he got for his Suzuki motorcycle would give people a laugh. Instead, he found that the joke — along with more than 200 parking violations — was on him.

The new tag arrived in the mail Saturday, along with an avalanche of city parking violations.

Officials said city computers linked to state Division of Motor Vehicles computers finally found an address for ticketed vehicles that lacked license tags.

An incorrect computer code used by the contractor that processes the city's parking violations helped land the tickets in Cara's mail, according to John Rago, a spokesman for Wilmington Mayor James Baker.

Building a truck highway

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma should consider building a toll road to pick up truck traffic from a massive road project Texas is planning from Mexico to the Red River, a former state transportation official says.

The Lone Star state is taking proposals on a four-lane route from Laredo to the Oklahoma-Texas line to speed product shipment and reduce congestion and wear on standard highways.

Once it reaches the Oklahoma line north of Dallas, it could be extended along U.S. 69 through Muskogee and Tulsa or parallel to Interstate 35 through Oklahoma City. Neal McCaleb, the former Oklahoma transportation secretary, said.

McCaleb said the 700-mile corridor in Texas would cost as much as \$8 billion, with 130 miles from the Red River to Tulsa costing almost \$1 billion.

The project is part of an envisioned 4,000-mile network tying railroads, highways and utilities across Texas and neighboring states. The whole network would cost \$186 billion.

Man speeds to court

WV WINFIELD — Sheriff's Deputy John Hedrick was surprised when a vehicle he was chasing squealed into a county parking lot and its driver, Daniel Clark, got out and ran toward a judicial annex.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The suspect, it turns out, was late for a very important date — in court.

The chase began Wednesday when Hedrick spotted a vehicle doing 60 in a 35 mph zone on U.S. 35.

Hedrick let Clark make his court date and alerted a bailiff.

When Clark left the courtroom, he was cited for speeding and driving on a suspended license.

Man found guilty of fraud

KS WICHITA — A man charged with taking his victims into putting their investments was sentenced to 13 months in prison.

Marty Banuelos, 49, milked victims out of more than \$100,000 by persuading them to invest in everything from sweatshirts for dialysis patients to salsa for Mexican restaurants. His lawyer said he had good intentions but was driven to fraud by cocaine addiction.

Python slithers on street

FL VERO BEACH — A 16-foot-long Burmese python was captured on a city street after a passing motorist spotted about three feet of it hanging over a curb and called police.

The brown-and-yellow snake was wrestled into a body bag and



Sailing away

Tall Ships sail into New London, Conn., on Thursday. The Tall Ships Environmental Festival is part of the International Children's Environmental Conference taking place at Connecticut College in New London.

taken to the home of Animal Control Officer Bruce Dangerfield.

The snake will probably be euthanized if its owner doesn't come forward, said Ike Daniel of the Humane Society.

"There is such overpopulation, no zoo wants them," she said.

Trucks idle no more

CA SACRAMENTO — California air regulators barred heavy diesel trucks and buses Thursday from idling more than five minutes without a good reason.

The new regulation applies to more than 400,000 publicly and privately owned diesel vehicles over 10,000 pounds. It will take effect in about six months if it withstands a technical review by the state's Office of Administrative Law.

Exceptions to the rule would allow buses to idle up to 10 minutes to keep heating or air conditioning running for passengers' comfort, and trucks with sleeper berths could idle during federally mandated rest periods.

California joins about 20 other states that restrict nonessential idling.

Besides helping clean up the nation's dirtiest air, ending the idling also will save diesel vehicle owners up to \$113 million annually in fuel and maintenance costs, the board estimated.

Ethanol plants get funds

NE LINCOLN — Eleven ethanol plants in Nebraska qualified for potentially more than \$200 million in state incentives. Six of the plants are shutting down to build larger facilities, or secure financing for expansion.

The plants use 25 percent of Nebraska's corn. That could double to 50 percent and production could reach 650 million gallons a year if all 11 plants become operational, the state Ethanol Board said.

Ethanol makes fuel burn cleaner.

Biologists make fishy find

VT BURLINGTON — Vermont fisheries biologists have discovered what they believe is another alien invader in Lake Champlain that could alter the lake's ecosystem.

Fisheries biologists from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department turned up what they believe is an alewife during routine sampling this month. Because it's similar to several other fish species found in Lake Champlain, the biologist haven't conclusively identified it as an alewife, but they're almost certain that's what it is.

"We haven't done a genetic analysis," said biologist Shawn Good, "but we've dissected it and compared some key features, both internally and externally. There's really nothing else it can be."

Alewives are primarily plankton eaters, and the concern is that once established in Lake Champlain, they'll compete with other fish, like smelt, for food. Smelt are an important food source for a number of larger fish, including trout, salmon, walleye and bass.



Taking a leap

Johnny Baltazar, 12, sails through the air as he jumps off the high dive at the Portales City Pool in Portales, N.M.



Bugs take over

Jacob Becker, 8, of Natick, Mass., examines an oversized wooden ladybug sculpture at the Big Bugs exhibit in the Garden in The Woods in Framingham, Mass.



Votes are in

A Hamtramck resident leaves a voting booth at the St. Ladislaus gymnasium in Hamtramck, Mich. The vote on whether to repeal a noise ordinance amendment has become a referendum on whether or not to allow the Islamic call to prayer in this once predominantly Polish community.



Surf's up, dude Mark Stewart flips off his surfboard near the Folly Beach Fishing Pier in Folly Beach, S.C.



Hanging on Ross Wines of Ruby Valley, Nev., stays on his mount as Another Fletcher stumbles out of the chutes in the saddle bronc event during the first night of the Snake River Stampede at the Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho.



Presidential art Artist "Sidewalk Sam" is shielded by his hat and an umbrella as he paints an image of President George Washington at Faneuil Hall in Boston as part of an art installation of presidential portraits in conjunction with this week's Democratic National Convention.



Marines on trucks A semitrailer truck decorated with U.S. Marine logos rolls near Granger, Iowa. A Granger-based trucking company is one of about 50 nationwide companies that have donated space on semitrailers to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Woman's fist ends forum

CO DENVER — A woman was arrested after hitting an anti-immigration heckler on the head during an emotional forum on the nation's immigration policies, authorities said.

Audience members began exchanging shouts and curses Thursday after one attendee demanded that the event, sponsored by the First Data Corp., begin with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Halfway through the event, a fist-fight broke out and a woman described by friends as a Hispanic activist was arrested, the Denver Post newspaper reported. No names were released.

During the forum, a panel of six academics and politicians discussed how immigrants affect the nation's economy and debated the merits of a national guest worker program.

An estimated 8 million to 12 million undocumented immigrants live and work in the United States.

Father gets out of jail

NY WARWICK — A man who, with his wife, adopted an infant, then kidnapped him and raised him to adulthood after the adoption was declared invalid, was released from prison Friday after two years.

Barry Smiley, who had admitted taking Matthew Propp to New Mexico to raise him in 1979, left the Mid-Orange Correctional Facility at 9:20 a.m.

Smiley must add his name to the state's sex offender registry.

By law, a person convicted of second-degree kidnapping when the child is younger than 17 and the offender is not the parent must register as a sex offender.

The couple fled to Albuquerque, N.M., with the baby and lived under the aliases Bennett and Mary Propp. The couple surrendered in 2001, but argued that they had acted out of love for the child.

Family dog kills baby boy

TX HOUSTON — A 6-month-old boy has died after being bitten by the family dog — a mixed-breed boxer.

The baby was flown to Memorial Hermann Hospital after being bitten Thursday night, but later died of his injuries, Montgomery County sheriff's deputies said.

Sheriff's deputies said the boy, whose name was not released, was crawling on the floor near the dog's food bowl when he was bitten.

The dog will be quarantined by the Montgomery County animal control office pending the outcome of an investigation, officials said.

Charges are not likely to be filed in the case because the incident appears to be isolated, Montgomery County sheriff's deputies said.

Mountain gets protection

VA STANARDSVILLE — An anonymous donation three weeks ago enabled the Nature Conservancy to close a \$1.5 million deal to buy and protect Hightop Mountain in Shenandoah National Park.

The environmental group bought 703 acres in Greene County,

which was privately owned and under threat of development.

The purchase was made in cooperation with the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy. The deal had been in negotiations since August, but it became possible only when the conservancy was given \$3 million three weeks ago.

Cocaine ring busted

TX ABILENE — Authorities arrested 14 people and were searching for 12 more in their investigation of a cocaine crack distribution ring federal prosecutors said operated in North Texas.

A federal grand jury in Lubbock indicted 32 people last month.

The indictment was unsealed Thursday. Seven of those named are in state or federal custody on unrelated charges.

The 32 are accused of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute various quantities of cocaine and crack cocaine.

Thursday's arrests were made in Fort Worth and Abilene.

Scott Edward Conner, 24, of Abilene and Fort Worth is accused in the indictment of being the ring-leader.

Snowboarder sent to jail

CO GLENWOOD SPRINGS — The Texas snowboarder who drunkenly crashed into a group of children at the Sunlight ski area last year has been given three years at a community lockup for violating probation.

Michael Wolff, 21, of Killeen, Texas, will remain in Garfield County Jail until space becomes available at the San Luis Valley Community Corrections Center in Alamosa, authorities said.

Once he is there, Wolff will enter a 45-day alcohol treatment program.

Wolff pleaded guilty to negligent child abuse and other charges last summer. He crashed into a group of girls taking a ski lesson at Sunlight Mountain Resort in March 2003. One girl suffered a broken leg.

Earlier this month, Wolff admitted to violating parole by failing to finish a substance abuse program, find a job and keep in touch with parole officials.

Pastor hurt in robbery

NY NEW YORK — A Brooklyn pastor suffered facial injuries when he was beaten and robbed by an intruder who allegedly got into the rectory of a Bushwick church through a third-floor window, police said.

Investigators were searching for the intruder, who allegedly entered St. Brigit's Roman Catholic Church at about 5:30 a.m. Thursday and struck the 67-year-old priest in the face before fleeing, police said.

The priest, identified in news reports as Monsignor James Kelly, was taken to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in stable condition, police said. The intruder reportedly took \$60 to \$80 that had been in Kelly's pants, leaving the pastor with a fire escape with Kelly's wallet still in the pocket.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Horoscope

It's a hands-on day. Venus and Mars strike an enervating dynamic that makes it impossible to continue to sit around and see what happens. We're driven to jump in and mix it up. This is true both in love and at work. There will be talking out of line and inappropriate interventions, but that's all part of the mechanism of change.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 27) This birthday marks the beginning of a new chapter in your life. You're feeling more in control of what happens, and you're standing up for yourself and handling situations that were once difficult. This wave of confidence attracts a new job in September. Singles find love at work in the fall. You are especially compatible with Capricorn and Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Anything that can be improved upon (in either your external or internal environment) goes on a long list.

It's so easy for you to see your shortcomings now, but instead of dwelling on them, give yourself constructive criticism.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

What seemed just fine yesterday now feels deficient, including your small apartment or older-model car. Do whatever you can to bolster your self-esteem in non-materialistic ways, as dwelling on what you don't have will only hurt you out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Like a twin who depends on his or her sibling to set the mood, you may rely too heavily on outside forces to determine your attitude. Prevent this tendency by considering carefully what you decide to react to and what you let slide.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

When you meet someone who has achieved much in an arena where you yourself would like to become successful, offer to take this person to dinner — somewhere nice, of course. Act like this will cause you to expand your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The enemy is that part of you which feels the need to complain. It's a powerful force that compels you to moan, but if you resist, you'll find your power.

Why go on like a broken record when you can do something about it?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The ground rules at work are shifting and shaking — it's like a continental drift that will eventually change the landscape of your profession. Instead of being scared, be on the cutting edge, or at least interested people who are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Handle business early when you're like a walking computer, fantastic at keeping the figures straight and itemizing long lists in your head. Tasks you would usually do by rote seem to have a whole different meaning now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You'll feel like letting up on that strong self-discipline you've established, but don't. Now is the time to persevere. If you let yourself get off the productivity train, it will be weeks before you can get back on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The more interest you show in something, the more interesting that thing becomes. Great joy is found today when you decide to be a connoisseur, a fan and an enthusiast.

Fellow devotees would love to chat with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You'll be flowing with your emotions, but don't let them determine what action you take. Be driven by principle instead. You'll spend the morning getting a clearer understanding of what you need for the big and little picture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're experiencing a growth spurt and may become suddenly uncomfortable with who you are. If you're unhappy with your outer shell, consider the thoughts you're thinking about what you look like.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

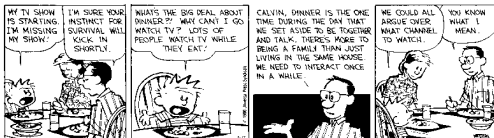
If you feel like you're just going along with the status quo, today brings a wake-up call. You don't have to decide exactly what to do about it just yet, but take a honest look at your situation. Put off signing contracts.

Creators Syndicate

Yoyle Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



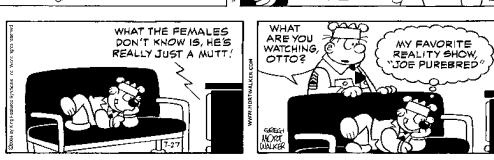
Kathy



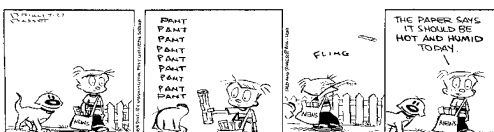
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



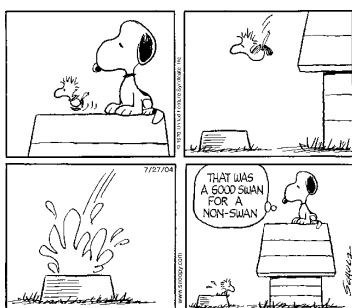
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



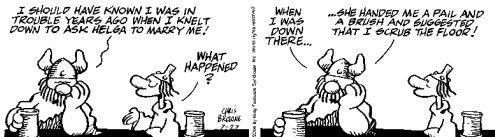
Blondie



Dilbert



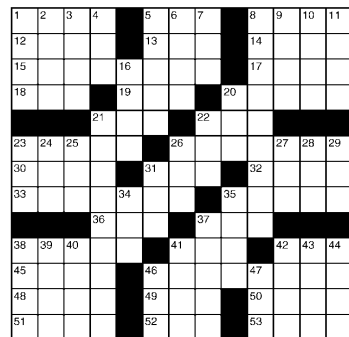
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

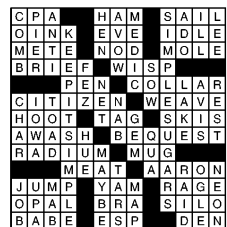
- 1 Item on stage
5 Mrs. McKinley
8 Aid in crime
12 Corporate symbol
13 "Sound of Music" extra
14 In a bad way
15 April observance
17 '60s Secretary of State
18 Exist
19 Conger, e.g.
20 Correspond
22 Feed speedily
23 Fess up
26 Adages
30 Burn a bit
31 Peach stone
32 Albacore
33 Kimberly-Clark product
35 Afghanistan's capital
36 Recipe measurement
37 Kids' card game
38 Strength
41 Martini ingredient
42 Grecian vessel
45 Jai —
46 Napoleon's downfall
48 Mah-jongg piece
49 Make up your mind
50 Loosen
51 Partner's share
52 Crucial

- 53 Part of a Lone Ranger costume
24 First St.
25 West of Hollywood
26 Deep — (disscard)
27 Gist
28 Wildebeest
29 Actor Mineo
31 Energy
34 Enthusiast
35 Welles role
37 Jocular
38 SAT section
39 Pelvic bones
40 Unmitigated nerve
41 Stare stupidly
42 Radius' neighbor
43 Fishing gear
44 Recess
46 Moo goo gai pan
47 Piratic potable

Down

- 1 Defendant's answer
2 Bellow
3 Shrek, e.g.
4 Cauldron
5 Alphabetized list
6 Two-way
7 Whatever amount
8 Instrumental equivalent of lip-synching?
9 Unclear image
10 Differently
11 Youngster
16 Passion
20 "Juggling —"
21 "Backdraft" bigwig
22 Break a fast

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-27

CRYPTOQUIP

N P E V X G I H N O V Y N I
Z G N H H N F O V F N V F M X N R C
E V X R V X W Z M V S N F O W E I U E
N Y ' I U W C C S E P U X R C Y
Yesterday's Cryptquip: HIS FATHER REALLY LIKED THE IDEA OF BUYING A DINER, SO HE BOUGHT A STEAK IN IT.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals P

Cleaning bathroom takes all kinds

Dear Abby: I'm writing regarding the letter from "Former Houseguest," who complained about his hostess scrubbing in the bathroom and scrubbing it every morning after he and his fiancée had showered.

When I was a newwed, I was an insecure hostess and overly concerned about what my guests might think of the state of my house. Perhaps she was trying to impress upon them that she was a careful homemaker. Her rushing in to clean the bathroom may have nothing to do with her not wanting them there.

—Beet There in Rowlett, Texas
Dear Beet There: Perhaps not; other readers read the letter through the prism of their own experiences, too.
Read on:

Dear Abby: I have a stepdaughter who has a severe case of obsessive-compulsive disorder

(OCD). This poor soul can't have company because she must spend all day and all night cleaning the entire house before they arrive. When we visit her, we must be careful not to touch the walls, or she will scrub them, too.

Some people are not even aware that they have this illness until it's so out of control they are advised to seek help. This could be the case with that hostess. It's a terrible illness that results from a chemical imbalance in the brain.
—A Reader, Nashville, N.H.

Dear Reader: Thanks for pointing it out. A reader from Tearkana, Texas, who suffers from OCD

e-mailed me to suggest that people who have this disorder should contact the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation Inc. It offers support and education for people with OCD-related disorders, their friends, families and professionals, and it also supports research into the causes

and effective treatments. Its Web site is: www.ocfoundation.org. Read on:

Dear Abby: I also clean my bathroom every morning, and I am not alone. A lot of people are on a "system" set up by someone we call "the Fly Lady." ("Fly" stands for "Finally Loving Yourself.") She is a county commissioner in the state of Tennessee, who instructs us to get up, get dressed to do the shoes, put in a load of laundry, and make our bathrooms shine — every day, first thing in the morning. The bathroom is then presentable for any guests who might come later in the day.

If you would like to see this for yourself, go to www.flylady.net. She is wonderful. She talks about having peace in your homes and a lot of other wonderful things.
—Flying In Oregon

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUXEE

JOUMB

PYRSOD

KAUMPE

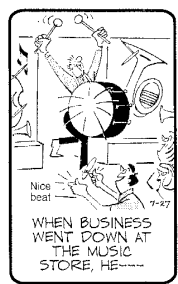
www.jumble.com

Answer: "IT" IT

Yesterday's Jumbles: HAZEL TOKEN HARROW TWADRY

Answer: What the bricklayer did when she changed her mind — THREW IN THE TROWEL.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the six-letter answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Unsure if relationship is love

Dear Annie: I am a 54-year-old woman, divorced for 10 years. Men seem to like me, but nothing has come of it. In most cases, it was my decision to end the relationships — one man was verbally abusive, and another was so busy with his career and sports, I knew I'd never rate high enough in his life. The others were people I thought were pleasant and nice, but I wasn't in love with them.

I have a full life with a high-paying career, and I'm involved in many activities, but I'm tired of dating. It's frustrating. I feel lonely and disconnected, and I want to be part of a couple and have some stability.

For the past three months, I've been dating a wonderful man who is in love with me. "Jack" is 57. He's a sweet, good person. I enjoy his company, but I suspect it's mostly because he used to be fun places. I really, really want that life. But I am not in love with

Annie's Mailbox



Jack. I feel guilty when we're together.

The thought of giving up this nice person to return to the agony of dating is just horrible.

—Confused and Miserable
Dear Confused: We know dating can be a drag, but we think you are expecting too much, too soon. Those sweep-you-off-your-feet relationships are very

exciting, but the feeling rarely lasts. Love doesn't have to hit like lightning. It can grow, slowly and steadily, if you have an open heart and are patient.

Give Jack a little more time. If you still don't think you can love him, cut him loose, and let him find someone who can. Since you have no problem attracting men, you might want to spend some time figuring out what, exactly, you want from them.

Dear Annie: I'd been pretty healthy all my life, when suddenly I could not eat a thing without

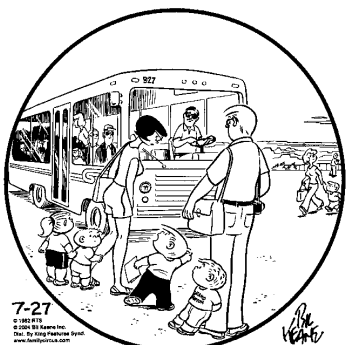
bloating, diarrhea and gas. After a year of seeing different doctors and having a battery of tests, I finally was told I had a microscopic intestinal parasite.

I had never heard of this problem before, but the doctor said it is fairly common. Many physicians still believe you can get parasites only by traveling abroad, but in reality, the growth of the imported food industry has greatly increased the incidence of infection in this country.

My illness was treated, and I'm fine now, but I worry that others might go through the same nightmare.

—Kingston, N.Y.
Dear Kingston: We truly live in a global community today, and with imported food and increased air travel, diseases are no longer confined to particular areas of the world. Thank you for the timely warning.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your queries to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.
Creators Syndicate



"Is this bus and the mules the only rides to go on at the Grand Canyon?"

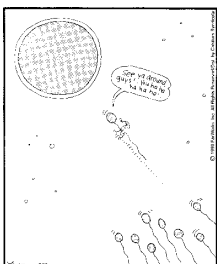


Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side

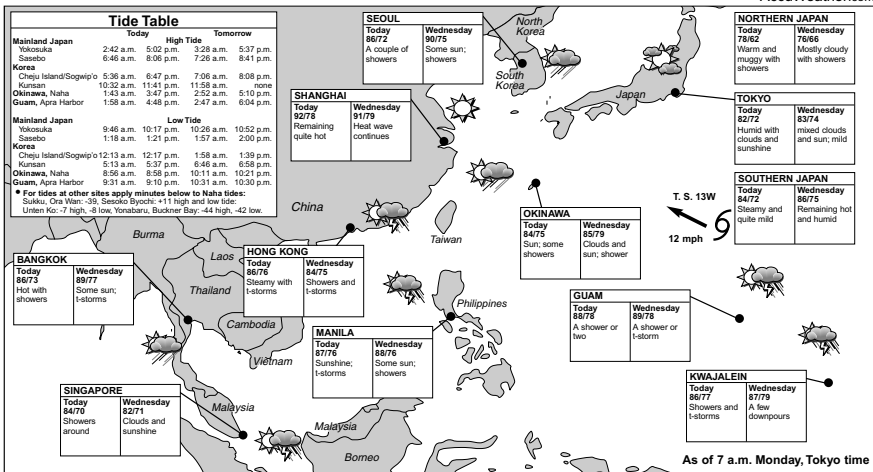


Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Thursday: Showers, high 86, low 76.
Friday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 76.

KADENA
Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 80.
Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 80.

SEoul
Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 91, low 74.
Friday: Showers, high 90, low 74.

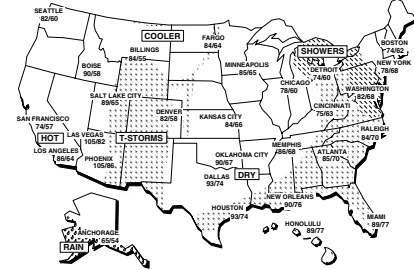
MANILA
Thursday: Showers, high 88, low 75.
Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 76.

HAGATNA
Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 90, low 78.
Friday: Showers, high 89, low 78.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	78/57	Los Angeles	88/65
Anchorage	69/54	Little Rock	94/66
Asheville	80/65	Miami	89/78
Baltimore	76/67	Milwaukee	69/57
Birmingham	91/73	Nashville	85/68
Bismarck	91/56	New York	74/66
Boise	94/64	Omaha	76/57
Boston	70/61	Orlando	94/74
Brownsville	98/76	Philadelphia	75/67
Buffalo	75/58	Phoenix	103/85
Burlington	77/54	Pittsburgh	78/62
Charleston, SC	87/73	Portland, OR	86/58
Charlotte	88/70	Portland, ME	73/56
Cleveland	73/59	Salt Lake City	91/67
Columbus, OH	76/61	St. Louis	73/62
Duluth	78/65	San Antonio	95/70
El Paso	81/62	San Diego	77/68
Hartford	76/58	San Juan	87/77
Helena	96/62	Tampa	91/76
Indianapolis	73/58	Tulsa	76/58
Jacksonville	91/71	Washington	78/68
Kansas City	78/58	Wichita	76/58

Tuesday, July 27



U.S. Extended Forecast

After a wet Tuesday and Wednesday for most of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, some improvement is expected for Thursday as high pressure builds into the region. This will push a stubborn cold front off the coast. The cold front will remain buried in the Southeast, and this will keep showers and thunderstorms likely for the entire period, especially over Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas. A cold front propagating across the Plains will gain strength and trigger showers and thunderstorms along and ahead of the front. The storms will affect the western Plains Tuesday, the central Plains Wednesday and finally the eastern Plains on Thursday.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	86/73	Iwakuni	87/75	Sasebo NB	85/75
Beijing	88/72	Kadena AB	78/62	Sapporo	78/62
Camp Casey	83/75	Kusan AB	87/74	Seoul	86/72
Christchurch	53/35	Kwajalein	86/77	Shanghai	92/78
Diego Garcia	83/75	Majuro	87/76	Singapore	84/70
Hagatna	86/78	Misawa AB	83/68	Sydney	63/40
Hanoi	87/76	Osaka	86/73	Taipei	89/75
Hong Kong	86/76	Perth	61/46	Tokyo	86/68
Honolulu	89/77	Pusan	85/74		82/72

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/76	Budapest	71/46	Kabul	102/67
Athens	85/66	Buenos Aires	68/52	Kiev	81/62
Auckland	57/49	Cairo	102/71	Kuwait	118/63
Baghdad	111/76	Cancun	85/74	London	70/56
Barbados	86/70	Cape Town	58/41	Madrid	96/72
Barcelona	76/52	Geneva	51/54	Mexico City	70/51
Berlin	67/53	Istanbul	87/67	Montreal	81/68
Bermuda	87/75	Jerusalem	91/64	Mogadishu	84/71
Brussels	69/51	Johannesburg	63/36	Moscow	78/58
				Stockholm	69/55
				Warsaw	66/52



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SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea. Standard time. Guam is one hour ahead. Schedules subject to change without notice.

Television

AFN-Athletic

TUE, July 27, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: St. Louis vs. Cincinnati.
WEB, July 26, at 8 p.m. — Pro baseball: Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee.

AFN-Sports

MON, July 26, at 11 p.m. — Cycling: Tour de France, 17th stage.
TUE, July 27, at 8 a.m. — Pro golf: PGA Tour of America, 1st round.
TUE, July 27, at 2 p.m. — Drag racing: NHRA Carquest Auto Parts Nationals.

WEB, July 26, at 8 a.m. — Pro soccer: Columbus vs. Colorado.
WEB, July 26, at 8 p.m. — Pro baseball: San Francisco vs. San Diego.

WEB, July 26, at 8 p.m. — Pro racing: CART (Champ Car) Molson Indy Whitehouse.

TUE, July 27, at 2 p.m. — Pro tennis: ATP Masters Series Canada.

WEB, July 26, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: Philadelphia vs. Florida.

TUE, July 27, at 11 a.m. — Pro baseball: Seattle Mariners vs. San Francisco.

TUE, July 27, at 8 p.m. — Pro boxing: Eddie Guerrero vs. Antonio Marín, lightweight.

TUE, July 27, at 8 p.m. — Pro baseball: Minnesota at Chicago White Sox.

Cycling

Tour de France

Sunday
101.5 miles (17th stage)
1. **1st round** — 17th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

2. **2nd round** — 18th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

3. **3rd round** — 19th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

4. **4th round** — 20th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

5. **5th round** — 21st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

6. **6th round** — 22nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

7. **7th round** — 23rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

8. **8th round** — 24th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

9. **9th round** — 25th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

10. **10th round** — 26th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

11. **11th round** — 27th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

12. **12th round** — 28th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

13. **13th round** — 29th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

14. **14th round** — 30th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

15. **15th round** — 31st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

16. **16th round** — 32nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

17. **17th round** — 33rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

18. **18th round** — 34th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

19. **19th round** — 35th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

20. **20th round** — 36th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

21. **21st round** — 37th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

22. **22nd round** — 38th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

23. **23rd round** — 39th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

24. **24th round** — 40th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

25. **25th round** — 41st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

26. **26th round** — 42nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

27. **27th round** — 43rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

28. **28th round** — 44th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

29. **29th round** — 45th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

30. **30th round** — 46th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

31. **31st round** — 47th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

32. **32nd round** — 48th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

33. **33rd round** — 49th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

34. **34th round** — 50th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

35. **35th round** — 51st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

36. **36th round** — 52nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

37. **37th round** — 53rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

38. **38th round** — 54th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

39. **39th round** — 55th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

40. **40th round** — 56th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

41. **41st round** — 57th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

42. **42nd round** — 58th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

43. **43rd round** — 59th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

44. **44th round** — 60th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

45. **45th round** — 61st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

46. **46th round** — 62nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

47. **47th round** — 63rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

48. **48th round** — 64th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

49. **49th round** — 65th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

50. **50th round** — 66th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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53. **53rd round** — 69th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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56. **56th round** — 72nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

57. **57th round** — 73rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

58. **58th round** — 74th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

59. **59th round** — 75th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

60. **60th round** — 76th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

61. **61st round** — 77th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

62. **62nd round** — 78th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

63. **63rd round** — 79th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

64. **64th round** — 80th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

65. **65th round** — 81st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

66. **66th round** — 82nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

67. **67th round** — 83rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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83. **83rd round** — 99th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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99. **99th round** — 115th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

100. **100th round** — 116th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

101. **101st round** — 117th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

102. **102nd round** — 118th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

103. **103rd round** — 119th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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110. **110th round** — 126th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

111. **111th round** — 127th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

112. **112th round** — 128th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

113. **113th round** — 129th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

114. **114th round** — 130th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

115. **115th round** — 131st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

116. **116th round** — 132nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

117. **117th round** — 133rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

118. **118th round** — 134th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

119. **119th round** — 135th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

120. **120th round** — 136th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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124. **124th round** — 140th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

125. **125th round** — 141st stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

126. **126th round** — 142nd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

127. **127th round** — 143rd stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

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129. **129th round** — 145th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

130. **130th round** — 146th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

131. **131st round** — 147th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

132. **132nd round** — 148th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

133. **133rd round** — 149th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

134. **134th round** — 150th stage, 101.5 miles, 4 hours, 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

Tennis

RCA Championships

Sunday
At The Home Depot Center
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Purse: \$500,000 (Tier II)

Men's
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Serena Williams (1), United States, 6-1, 6-3.

JPMorgan Chase Open

Sunday
At The Home Depot Center
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Purse: \$500,000 (Tier II)

Men's
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Serena Williams (1), United States, 6-1, 6-3.

General Open

Sunday
At Kitzbühel Tennis Club
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Purse: \$500,000 (Tier I)

Men's
Gaston Gaudio (2), Argentina, def. Fernando Verdasco (8), Spain, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), Germany, def. Rainer Schüttler (1), Germany, 6-3, 6-3.

Men's
Nicolas Pietrangeli (1), Germany, def. Gaston Gaudio (2), Argentina, 7-6(1), 6-4.

Croatica Open

Sunday
At

Busch wins at London; Earnhardt stays close

The Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Kurt Busch won the race while injured Dale Earnhardt Jr. stuck to his game plan and, with relief help, held onto second place in the NASCAR Nextel Cup driver standings on Sunday.

Busch was the only driver to stay with pole-winner Ryan Newman through most of the Siemens 300, passing him twice and, finally, pulling away from Newman and runner-up Jeff Gordon at the end for his second victory of the season and 10th of his career.

Racing roundup

"My car was just really good on long runs and, once we got to the front, we were able to run real strong in clean air," Busch said. A number of drivers had their eyes on the driver standings Sunday, with the top 10, along with any others within 400 points of the lead after the 26th race, to compete for the championship over the last 10 races of the season.

Busch's first victory since Bristol in March solidified his chances of vying for the title as he jumped from ninth to sixth in the standings with seven races remaining until the "Chase for the Cup" begins Sept. 19 on the same flat, 1.058-mile New Hampshire International Speedway oval.

"I thought we had to apply pressure this week and get our 10 races going right now," Busch said.

Earnhardt, with second-degree burns on his legs, neck and chin from a crash a week earlier during a sports car event, started the race in order to qualify for any points he has earned. Earnhardt gave up the seat on pole 61 to Martin Truex Jr., the Busch Series points leader making his Cup debut.

Truex hit the wall on lap 141 after bouncing off Ken Schrader's car, but the 24-year-old rookie hung in to finish 31st,



Michael Schumacher's Ferrari leads the field into the first turn at the start of Sunday's German Grand Prix. Schumacher won the race to a record of 11 victories in a season.

two laps behind Busch. Series points leader Jimmie Johnson, who swept both New Hampshire races last year, struggled to finish 11th on Sunday, increasing his lead over Earnhardt from 105 to 165 points, with Gordon 202 back.

Schumacher wins 11th

HOCKENHEIM, Germany — Michael Schumacher won the German Grand Prix on Sunday to tie his own record with 11 victories in a season and close in on his seventh Formula One championship.

Schumacher, who has won all but one race this season, started from the pole and finished 8.3 seconds ahead of Jensen Button. Fernando Alonso was third.

"It's unbelievable," Schumacher said. "What a weekend. Yesterday pole position, today the victory. The atmosphere this

morning, it was just fantastic, and then to win the race. It was great fun."

With the temperature on the track topping 100 degrees, Schumacher raced away from the start and built a 3.3-second lead within nine laps and by the 25th lap was nearly 15 seconds ahead.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, Rubens Barrichello, collided with David Coulthard seconds after the start on the first turn, lost a front wing and dropped to 20th. Barrichello finished 12th with a flat tire on the last lap. Coulthard finished fourth, followed by Juan Pablo Montoya and Mark Webber.

Schumacher has a virtually insurmountable lead in the driver standings with 110 points to Barrichello's 74. Button, third with 61, could be eliminated from title contention in the next race, the Hungarian GP on Aug. 15.

Golf roundup

pro Peter Oakley shot a 2-under 70 on Sunday to fend off Tom Kite and Eduardo Romero and win the Senior British Tour, his first Champions Tour title.

Oakley, the pro at The Rookery in Rehoboth Beach, Del., who had to qualify for the tournament, chipped out of a greenside bunker and rolled in a 10-foot par putt on the 18th at Royal Portrush to win the major championship by one stroke. His only other tournament victory was the 1999 PGA Club Professional Championship.

He dropped his putter to the ground and took a few seconds to acknowledge the applause of the fans after winning the title previously won by the likes of Gary Player, Bob Charles and Tom Watson.

"It still hasn't sunk in," said Oakley, who shot a 4-under 284. "Somebody told me that I'm exempt to play on the U.S. senior tour now for a year or something. I just can't believe that. My life is changing right before my very eyes. I don't know what to think."

Ex-Air Force football coach Martin is dead

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Ben Martin, who put Air Force football on a national footing during 20 seasons as coach, died Saturday at age 83.

Martin recently had a heart attack, Air Force assistant athletic director for media relations Troy Gerhardt said Sunday.

Martin, a Navy graduate, took over from Buck Shaw in 1958 and led the Falcons to a 9-0-2 record, including a 0-0 tie against Texas Christian in the Cotton Bowl. He also sent teams to the Gator Bowl (1963) and Sugar Bowl (1970).

Martin retired after the 1977 season with a 96-103-9 record.

Ex-NBA coach Fitzsimmons dies

PHOENIX — Cotton Fitzsimmons, who won 832 games in 21 seasons as an NBA coach, died Saturday due to complications from lung cancer. He was 72.

Fitzsimmons was executive vice president of the Phoenix Suns, a team he coached on three occasions.

Fitzsimmons had been in a Phoenix-area care center since suffering a stroke earlier this month.

Fitzsimmons had a 832-775 record in stints with Phoenix, Atlanta, Buffalo, Kansas City and San Antonio.

Davenport defeats Serena Williams

CARSON, Calif. — Lindsay Davenport defeated top-seeded Serena Williams 6-1, 6-3 in just an hour Sunday to win the JPMorgan Chase Open, her fourth career title in eight final appearances in her hometown tournament.

A week ago, Davenport beat Venus Williams in three sets in Stanford, Calif.

Roddick repeats as RCA champ

INDIANAPOLIS — Andy Roddick used his trademark serve and powerful groundstrokes to overwhelm Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday and win a second straight RCA Championships title.

The second-ranked American, who had 10 aces, is the first since Pete Sampras (1991-92) to repeat as champion.

Massu wins Generali Open

KITZBUHEL, Austria — Third-seeded Nicolas Massu of Chile best French Open champion Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 on Sunday to win the rain-delayed Generali Open.

Earlier Sunday, Massu ousted top-seeded Rainer Schuettler of Germany 6-3, 6-3 and Gaudio beat Fernando Verdasco of Spain 6-0, 6-2 in semifinal matches postponed from Saturday by rain.

Canas wins in Croatia

UMAG, Croatia — Guillermo Canas of Argentina won the Croatian Open on Sunday, beating Filippo Volandri of Italy 7-5, 6-3 in the final.

The sixth-seeded Canas, who won last week's tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, claimed his fifth career title.

Isinbayeva sets pole vault mark

BIRMINGHAM, England — Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva broke the world record in the women's pole vault Sunday, clearing 16 feet, 5/8-inch in the Norwich Union International meet.

Isinbayeva's record broke the previous mark of 16 feet 5 inches set by compatriot Svetlana Feofanova on July 4 at Irkation, Greece. That broke Isinbayeva's record of 15-11 1/2 set in England on June 27.

Franco's bass fishing break pays off

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Carlos Franco, who spent his free time fishing for bass at a friend's pond during the week rather than practicing his golf game, shot a 3-under-par 67 Sunday to win the U.S. Bank Championship, which was known as the Greater Milwaukee Open when he won it in 1999.

Franco's 13-under 267 bested Fred Funk (66) and Brett Quigley (69) by two strokes on a cool, breezy day at Brown Deer Park. Patrick Sheehan (70), Billy Andrade (67) and Olin Browne (67) were three back.

Neither Sheehan nor Quigley, who shared the 54-hole lead, had ever led going into the final day of a PGA Tour event and the inexperience proved costly.

Sheehan made the turn a stroke ahead of Franco at 3-under for the day but went bogey-doubt bogey-bogey on Nos. 11-13 to fall off the pace. Quigley had one bogey and one birdie but was unable to mount a charge.

Club pro wins Sr. British

PORTTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Club

RB Williams tells Dolphins he has decided to retire

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Ricky Williams decided to retire at the peak of his career, stunning the Miami Dolphins and leaving an enormous void in their backfield less than a week before the start of training camp.

The 27-year-old Williams, who rushed for 3,225 yards in two seasons with the Dolphins, told coach Dave Wannstedt of his decision before leaving the country to begin several months of travel.

"I was completely surprised," Wannstedt said Sunday. "My main thought process was to try to get Ricky to come back here, sit down, talk about some things and see if we can get this thing back on track. He obviously chose to go another direction."

Williams told Wannstedt of his plans Friday. His retirement after only five NFL seasons was first reported by The Miami Herald.

"You can't understand how

What's the rush?

A look at NFL running backs who retired while still at the peak of their abilities.

■ **Ricky Williams:** At 27, the Dolphins star announced his decision to retire after posting the top two rushing seasons in team history and in his career the last two years.

■ **Jim Brown:** At 29, after leading the league in rushing in eight of his nine seasons, the Cleveland Browns star retired after the 1965 season.

■ **Barry Sanders:** At 30, and on the verge of breaking Walter Payton's career rushing record, the Detroit Lions star retired in the summer of 1995.

■ **Robert Smith:** At 28, he retired after his best NFL season, when he set a Minnesota Vikings rushing record with 1,521 yards in 2000.

— The Miami Herald

free I feel," Williams told the Herald in a cell phone interview Saturday before boarding a plane in Hawaii for Asia.

Long ambivalent about life in the spotlight, Williams said there's no chance he'll change his mind, and he plans to file his retirement papers Monday or Tuesday with the NFL. Dolphins players report for camp Friday.

Williams told the Herald that

marijuana tests he failed had a minor influence on his decision, and were only one of many factors. In May, three South Florida newspapers reported that Williams tested positive for marijuana and faced a fine of at least \$650,000 for violating the league's substance-abuse policy for a second time since joining the Dolphins.

His lawyer, Gary Ostrow, said there was no violation, and a ruling on Williams' appeal was pending. But Williams told the Herald he has gotten around drug tests in the past by taking a special liquid players all over the league consume to avoid detection.

"I don't know exactly what he was talking about," Wannstedt said. He declined further comment on the subject.

Williams, who is single but has three young children, was to make about \$3.5 million this season.

After winning the Heisman Trophy at Texas in 1998, Williams joined the New Orleans Saints when coach Mike Ditka used all



Dolphins running back Ricky Williams, left, told head coach Dave Wannstedt that he is retiring, leaving Miami without its best offensive player just a week before training camp.

of his draft picks to acquire the standout running back. Ditka said Sunday he hasn't spoken with Williams in about six months and was shocked by the retirement news.

"I'd love to talk to him and try to talk him out of it," Ditka said from Chicago. "It seems kind of

foolish to me, but I don't know what's on his mind. You're just destroying a great career. He's a talent. To let that all go to waste doesn't make a lot of sense."

Williams played three seasons for New Orleans but didn't blossom until he was dealt to Miami in 2002 for two first-round draft picks.

Champ Gatti KO's Dorin in second

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — No bloody shorts? No broken hand? No down-to-the-wire finish? This wasn't a typical Arturo Gatti fight.

Defending his WBC 140-pound title for the first time, Gatti knocked out top-ranked challenger Leonard Dorin in the second round Saturday and avoided the kind of slugfest that has defined his career.

"It's great to get out of here early," said Gatti, who won the title six months ago.

Gatti (38-6), who is known for landing with his jab and winning with his mind, didn't have to do either en route to a quick \$1.75 million payday.

Holding the shorter Dorin (21-1-1) at bay with left jabs and keeping active to avoid protracted exchanges, he dominated the first round and most of the second.

In between, trainer Buddy McGirt reminded him of what they'd worked on in training camp — using body shots that would take advantage of his 6-inch reach advantage.

In the second, Gatti, 32, unleashed a left-right-left combination to Dorin's head, then wound up and de-



Arturo Gatti, left, drills Leonard Dorin in the first round of the WBC super lightweight championship. Gatti knocked out Dorin in the second round.

livered a crushing left hook to the body that nearly lifted the 5-foot-4 Dorin off his feet.

Dorin fell to his right knee, then to both as referee Randy Neumann stepped in and counted him out at 2:55 of the round, Gatti leaping into the arms of manager Pat Lynch in celebration.

Ringside physician Dr. Kenneth Remsen said the punch took Dorin's breath away and caused his stomach to spasm. He may have broken a rib, Remsen said.

MetroStars edge Fire, give Bradley 100th win as coach

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Coach Bob Bradley earned his 100th MLS victory and the MetroStars defeated the Chicago Fire 2-1 Saturday on a second-half goal by John Woltyniec.

Chris Armas scored for Chicago, which is winless in its past eight games (0-5-3).

Bradley, the winningest coach in MLS history, is 100-70-29. He won 82 games as coach of the Fire.

Burn 5, United 1: Eddie Johnson scored two goals and had two assists and Brad Davis had two goals and an assist to lead Dallas at home.

The five goals were the most that United (5-7-6) has given up this season.

Freddy Adu, the teenage prodigy who made his seventh start of the season for United, forced an

MLS roundup

own goal by drilling a shot at the Burn goal, which Cory Gibbs unsuccessfully attempted to deflect away with his head.

Galaxy 2, Wizards 2: Tyrone Marshall scored in second-half stoppage time for the tie, which kept the visiting Galaxy (9-5-6) in first place in the Western Conference, one point ahead of the Wizards (9-4-5).

Revolution 2, Earthquakes 2: Landon Donovan and Brian Ching scored in injury time, rallying host San Jose to a tie.

Crew 0, Rapids 0: Colorado was shutout 8-6 on its home field, but goalkeeper Joe Cannon and Columbus keeper Jon Busch each recorded their sixth shutout.

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Record: Armstrong proves he's not past his prime

RECORD, FROM BACK PAGE

Eye-catching in the bright yellow race leader's jersey, Armstrong donned a golden cycling helmet for a relaxed roll past sun-baked fields of wheat and applauding spectators into Paris from Montreuil in the southeast.

He joked and chatted with teammates who wore special blue jerseys with yellow stripes. They stretched in a line across the road with their leader for motorcycle-riding photographers to record the moment. The team was the muscle behind Armstrong's victory, leading him in grueling mountain climbs, shielding him from crashes and wind, and keeping him stoked with drinks and food.

Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by 61 seconds — by far his narrowest victory. He now admits he was not in great shape. "I paid the price and learned a valuable lesson, and I won't ever make that mistake again," he said.

This year, he roared back with renewed fire.

With five solo stage wins and a team time-trial victory with his U.S. Postal Service squad, this was Armstrong's best Tour. But it was also one in which he was forced to defend himself against claims he might be taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Repeatedly pointing out he has never failed a test, Armstrong attributes his success to hard training and says the accusations only fuel his motivation.

Last week, he chased down Filippo Simeoni, an Italian rider who has testified about drug use within cycling, when he tried to surge ahead of the pack to win a stage. Armstrong's team also chased down Simeoni several times when he rode at the front on Sunday.

Before the Tour, Armstrong sued authors of a book who implied, without offering proof, that he used drugs.

"They want to create pressure that cracks you," Armstrong said.



This year's Tour was Armstrong's most successful, with wins in five solo stages and a team time trial.

"So, internally I say, 'OK, I will never crack because of that. This will not crack me.'"

Armstrong built his lead from Day 1, placing second in the third-fastest debut time trial in Tour history. That performance silenced doubts that Armstrong, at 32, was past his prime.

"He's been the strongest man for the last six years," Kloden said. "It's unbelievable."

Even more so than in other Tours that he dominated, Armstrong finished off rivals in the mountains — with three victories in the Alps, including a time trial on the legendary climb to l'Alpe d'Huez, and another in the Pyrenees. He also took the final time trial on Saturday, even though his overall lead was so big he didn't need to win it.

"We never had a sense of crisis, only the stress of the rain and the

crashes in the first week," Armstrong said. "I was surprised that some of the rivals were not better. Some of them just completely disappeared."

Basque rider Iban Mayo peaked too early when he beat Armstrong in the warm-up Dauphine Libere race three weeks before the Tour.

Mayo crashed in the Tour's rain-soaked, nervous first week, racing toward a treacherous stretch of cobblestones that Armstrong crossed safely. Mayo finally abandoned the race after the Pyrenees, his morale shot after two disappointing rides in the mountains where he'd hoped to win in front of Basque fans.

Former Armstrong teammates Roberto Heras, left trailing in the mountains, and American Tyler Hamilton, badly bruised in a crash, also went home.

Ullrich, the 1997 champion and a five-time runner-up, never recovered from seeing Armstrong zoom into the distance for two straight days in the Pyrenees.

The only rider to stay with Armstrong there was Basso, a 25-year-old with the makings of a future winner. He came out of the Alps, where Armstrong for the first time in his career won three consecutive stages, in second place overall.

But Kloden, the German champion and Ullrich's teammate, outdid the soft-spoken Basso in the final time trial, placing third behind Armstrong and Ullrich. That outdid Kloden, who did not complete last year's Tour, into second spot on the podium, pushing Basso back to third.

"I never would have predicted Kloden before the Tour. But you could see he was really strong and skinny in the first week," Armstrong said.

Armstrong still hasn't decided whether he will be back next year to compete in the race he values above all others, for which he trains relentlessly, leaving his three children in Texas with former wife Kristin, while he pounds the roads in Europe.

"I don't know what I'll do next summer. I suspect I'll be here. It's too big of a race. My only hesitation is I think the people and the event perhaps need a change, new faces, a new winner," he said. "If I'm here, I race to win."

Seven victories would be like owning seven sports cars, nice but not necessary. Armstrong says he's interested in trying other races — the Tour of Italy, Classics, and beating the one-hour cycling world record held by Britain's Chris Boardman.

After more than 1,900 miles of racing, riders mostly took it easy on the 101-mile final stage, until they reached the crowd-lined Champs-Élysées. Some took souvenir photos of themselves as

they rode, and Armstrong even stopped by the side of the road momentarily to adjust his saddle.

He also chatted with Belgian rider Axel Merckx, whose father, Eddy, is one of the five-time champions Armstrong passed. The others are Frenchmen Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetin, and Spaniard Miguel Indurain.

Victory has brought Armstrong fame and wealth and softened some of the brassiness he displayed as a young rider. He's learned rudimentary French and says his love of the Tour won't end with retirement — when he plans to watch the race on TV.

"I love the Tour de France," he said. "It's my buddy."

Associated Press writer Jerome Pugmire contributed to this report.

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Indians' Boone glad to be back

BY TOM WITHERS
 The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Aaron Boone walked into Cleveland's clubhouse, saw the new jersey hanging in his locker and realized just how much he had missed playing.

"I've never taken things like that for granted," Boone said, gesturing toward the No. 17 uniform with "BOONE" stitched across the shoulders. "But it was pretty exciting to see that again."

Boone moved closer to his major league comeback on Saturday, arriving in Cleveland to continue his recovery after offseason knee surgery.

A postseason hero for the New York Yankees last October, Boone signed a \$3.6 million, two-year contract with the Indians June 26, four months after reconstructive surgery on left knee ligaments he tore while playing in a pickup basketball game.

"It feels good to be back," Boone said before Saturday's doubleheader. "I'm looking forward to getting out there in the field and running the bases." Boone will work out at Jacobs Field for the next few weeks before a minor league rehabilitation assignment at Double-A Akron.

Barring setbacks, Boone will join the Indians in late August.

He has been hitting soft-toss for more than a month, and Boone began taking some grounders to test his knee earlier this week.

The 31-year-old hasn't been bothered by any soreness. His only problem so far has been getting back the confidence that he had before being injured.

"It's making your body react and to do the old things without thinking about it," he said.

Being away from the game for so long has been tough on Boone, who said he was handling it pretty well until recently.

"The last two or three weeks I've been driving my wife nuts," he said. "A few times she was asleep on the couch, and there I was in the living room with my batting gloves on staring in the mirror and working on my stance."

Boone said he won't rush things if he's not ready to play.

"I'm not going to go out and play a game unless I'm 100 percent," he said. "Having not played in 10 months that will be like my spring training."

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division		Pct	GB
New York	52	44	566
Boston	43	54	589
Tampa Bay	44	53	579
Seattle	43	54	589
Toronto	45	53	579

Central Division		Pct	GB
Minnesota	43	54	589
Chicago	42	54	589
Cleveland	40	56	589
St. Louis	42	54	589
Kansas City	42	54	589

West Division		Pct	GB
Oakland	52	44	566
Los Angeles	43	54	589
San Francisco	43	54	589
Seattle	43	54	589
San Diego	43	54	589

Saturday's games		Pct	GB
Cleveland 13, Kansas City 2	1st game		
Minnesota 5, Baltimore 2	2nd game		
Boston 11, N.Y. Yankees 10			
Los Angeles 4, Tampa Bay 3			
Oakland 6, Texas 2			
Minnesota 4, Seattle 2			
Chicago White Sox 1, Detroit 6			

Sunday's games		Pct	GB
Toronto 5, St. Louis 3			
Cleveland 5, Kansas City 1			
Minnesota 3, Baltimore 2			
Detroit 3, Chicago White Sox 2			
Texas at Oakland			
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore (Deirdar 4-4)			

Monday's games		Pct	GB
Boston (P.Martinez 11) at Baltimore (Deirdar 4-4)			
Detroit 9, Oakland 0			
N.Y. Yankees (Nunez 11-6) at Cleveland (Clee 10-2)			
Los Angeles (Bakke 6-4) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 10-3)			
St. Louis (Dreise 5-3) at Anaheim (Escobar 5-7)			

Tuesday's games		Pct	GB
Seattle at Baltimore			
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto			
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox			
Kansas City at Tampa Bay			
Detroit at Oakland			
Texas at Anaheim			

National League

East Division		Pct	GB
Atlanta	52	44	566
Philadelphia	43	54	589
New York	43	54	589
Florida	43	54	589
Pittsburgh	43	54	589

Central Division		Pct	GB
St. Louis	52	44	566
Chicago	43	54	589
Houston	43	54	589
San Diego	43	54	589
Arizona	43	54	589

West Division		Pct	GB
Los Angeles	43	54	589
San Francisco	43	54	589
San Diego	43	54	589
Arizona	43	54	589
Colorado	43	54	589

Saturday's games		Pct	GB
Philadelphia 4, Chicago 3			
Pittsburgh 14, Cincinnati 4			
Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 2			
Los Angeles 12, San Diego 2			
San Francisco 5, St. Louis 3			

Sunday's games		Pct	GB
Montreal 6, Florida 4			
Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 2			
St. Louis 4, Arizona 3			
Houston 5, Milwaukee 1			
San Francisco 5, San Diego 3			

Monday's games		Pct	GB
Atlanta (Wright 7-5) at Pittsburgh (Benson 8-7)			
N.Y. Mets (Erickson 4-0) at Montreal (Patterson 7-5)			
Philadelphia (Millwood 8-5) at Florida (Lincecum 7-5)			
St. Louis (Williams 7-6) at Cincinnati (Pettit 6-5)			

Tuesday's games		Pct	GB
N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh			
Atlanta at Montreal			
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee			
Los Angeles at Colorado			
San Francisco at San Diego			

Saturday		Pct	GB
Los Angeles 12, San Diego 2			
San Francisco 5, St. Louis 3			
Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 2			
Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 2			
St. Louis 4, Arizona 3			

Sunday		Pct	GB
Montreal 6, Florida 4			
Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 2			
St. Louis 4, Arizona 3			
Houston 5, Milwaukee 1			
San Francisco 5, San Diego 3			

Monday		Pct	GB
Atlanta (Wright 7-5) at Pittsburgh (Benson 8-7)			
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St. Louis (Williams 7-6) at Cincinnati (Pettit 6-5)			

Tuesday		Pct	GB
N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh			
Atlanta at Montreal			
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee			
Los Angeles at Colorado			
San Francisco at San Diego			

Red Sox 11, Yankees 10

New York		Pct	GB
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White Sox 7, Tigers 6

Detroit		Pct	GB
Infante 2b	5:10	2:00	4:11
Collier 3b	5:10	2:00	4:11
Rowen 1b	5:10	2:00	4:11
Rowen 1b	5:10	2:00	4:11
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Detroit		Pct	GB
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New York Mets center fielder Mike Cameron dives for a ball hit by Atlanta Braves' Adam LaRoche during the second inning Sunday at Shea Stadium in New York. The Mets have lost nine of their last 12.

Win over error-prone Mets leaves Braves atop NL East

BY HAL BOCK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For the Atlanta Braves, the recovery began in mid-June after they had lost six out of seven.

They were 32-38, in fourth place and drifting along 6½ games out of first place in the NL East.

Since then, the Braves have won 20 of 27 and stormed to the top of the division.

"Are we first?" manager Bobby Cox asked after a 4-3 win over the New York Mets on Sunday.

As if he didn't know.

"They're in first place because they capitalize on opponents' mistakes, and Sunday was just another example."

The Braves scored three unearned runs against the Mets on fielding errors by Rockies David Wright and Kaz Matsui, and Mike Hampton continued his pitching renaissance with six innings against the Mets.

"They're in first place for a reason," Mets manager Art Howe said. "They play the game pretty well. We made a couple of mistakes and they took advantage of them."

Wright, called up Wednesday from Triple-A Norfolk, made his second error in four games at third base and the Braves scored twice in the third

against Steve Trachsel (9-7). Matsui's 20th error in the fifth allowed the Braves to score another run.

Hampton (6-8) won his fourth straight game this month and limited the Mets — his former team — to five hits. He walked two and struck out two.

"He's winning because he's not giving up as many cheap hits," Cox said. "You give up a couple of those. Somebody gets a hit and it's two runs. You feel you're throwing great, but there are two runs on the board."

Hampton said he's been better.

"That was not my best, but I battled through it," the left-hander said. "You try to make good pitches. I missed quite a few. I didn't have as good stuff."

Jose Reyes had a career-high four hits, three off Hampton, for the Mets, who have lost three straight and nine of their last 12.

With the Mets trailing 4-2 in the seventh, Mike Cameron led off with a single off Hampton. Kevin Grysinski came in to relieve him, and retired the next two batters before walking pinch-hitter Eric Valente. Reyes followed with an RBI single, but Matsui grounded out to end the rally.

Chris Reitsma got two outs in the eighth, but gave up a single to Todd Zile. John Smoltz came in and struck out Cameron before throwing a perfect ninth for his 20th save in 22 opportunities.

"I like that, coming in and getting somebody else out of trouble," Smoltz said.

Milton loses no-hit bid in ninth, but Phillies recover to beat Cubs

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Eric Milton pitched eight hitless innings before Michael Barrett blooped a double just in front of center fielder Doug Glavine, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Chicago Cubs 3-2 Sunday on Pat Burrell's run-scoring single in the ninth.

Philadelphia led 2-0 when Barrett was jammed by an 0-1 fast-ball leading off the ninth, Milton's 98th pitch of the game. Glavine, who had replaced the Ricky Ledee in the eighth, at first broke back on the ball, then charged in and just missed an attempt for a diving catch.

Milton then struck out pinch-hitters Jose Macias and Alex Gonzalez, giving him a season-high 12 strikeouts, but Mike Grudzielanek singled and Corey Patterson doubled off the wall in left-center, tying the score and chasing Milton.

Ryan Madson (7-2) relieved and retired Sammy Sosa on a grounder.

LaTroy Hawkins (2-3) walked Jim Thome leading off the bottom half and Glavine, booted by the crowd of 44,539, sacrificed.

Burrell then drove the next pitch to deep right-center.

Chicago's Mark Prior, pitching for the first time since leaving a game July 15 because of a tender elbow, allowed two runs and five hits in six innings.

Elsewhere in the NL Sunday:

Expos 6, Marlins 4: Livan Hernandez threw six hitless innings and came within two outs of his second straight complete game, leading the Expos past visiting Florida.

Hernandez (7-10) didn't allow a

NL Roundup

hit until Mike Lowell's double on the first pitch of the seventh.

Tony Batista hit a three-run homer off Justin Wayne (3-3) to key a four-run fourth as Montreal completed a three-game sweep. The Expos have won four straight, tying their longest streak of the season.

Cardinals 6, Giants 0: Matt Morris (11-6) threw a seven-inning shutout for his seventh career shutout, and the Cardinals took advantage of Jerome Williams' wildness.

The Cardinals avoided a sweep after losing the first two games of the three-game series, and beat the Giants for only the second time in seven games at home the last two seasons.

The NL Central leaders have won 16 of 20 overall and 13 of 16 at home.

The teams' big stars — Barry Bonds and Albert Pujols — both got the day off.

Astros 9, Brewers 1: Pete Munro (2-2) pitched seven shutout innings, and Mike Lamb drove in three runs with a pair of doubles to lead Houston over visiting Milwaukee.

Houston has won four of its last five games, improving to 5-5 since Phil Garner replaced Jim Williams as manager at the All-Star break. The Astros had 12 hits, five of them doubles.

Houston took a 4-0 lead in the third on Lamb's bases-loaded double off the left-field scoreboard and Morgan Ensberg's two-run single.

Pirates 6, Reds 5: Pinch-hitter

Rob Mackowiak drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI double in the fifth, helping Pittsburgh come from behind and complete a three-game home sweep of Cincinnati.

Mike Redman hit a three-run homer for the Pirates, who rallied from a 5-1 deficit to win for the eighth time in their last 10 games. Pittsburgh has also won 14 of its last 15 at home.

Sean Casey homered and drove in four runs, and Wily Mo Pena also hit a home run for the Reds, who have lost five straight.

In Saturday's NL games:

Braves 5, Mets 2: Julio Franco's game-tying double keyed Atlanta's four-run rally in the eighth inning at Shea Stadium against a struggling New York bullpen.

It was the Mets eighth loss in 11 games and the fourth straight loss in which the bullpen has taken the defeat.

Pirates 14, Reds 4: Jason Kendall's two-run double put Pittsburgh ahead during a seven-run sixth inning as the home team rallied from three runs down to beat Cincinnati.

Jason Bay had two hits in the inning and Craig Wilson added a two-run single to help the Pirates overcome Cincinnati leads of 3-0 and 4-1.

Astros 6, Brewers 3: Tim Lincecum (4-6) pitched three-hit ball over five innings in his return to Houston's starting rotation to beat visiting Milwaukee.

Adam Everett and pinch-hitter Jason Lane homered for the Astros, who had three sacrifice flies in the game.

Expos 6, Marlins 2: Endy Chavez hit a tying two-run triple in the sixth, then scored the



Phillies starter Eric Milton is congratulated by manager Larry Bowa after his no-hit bid was broken up in the ninth inning against the Chicago Cubs on Sunday.

go-ahead run on Jamey Carroll's sacrifice fly to lead Montreal over Florida at Olympic Stadium.

Rocky Biddle (2-4) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings, his longest outing in three starts since joining the rotation.

Dodgers 12, Padres 2: Adrian Beltre hit his third career grand slam and Shawn Green added a three-run shot as Los Angeles routed visiting San Diego for its 17th victory in 19 games.

Juan Encarnacion followed Green's seventh-inning homer with a solo shot and also robbed Ryan Klesko of a three-run homer in the first to help maintain the Dodgers' 3½-game lead in the NL West over San Francisco.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 2: Vinny Castilla tied a career high by homering in his fourth straight game as Colorado won in Phoenix to hand Arizona its 13th straight loss.

Castilla broke a 1-all tie with his leadoff shot off rookie Lance Cormier in the fourth inning — his fifth homer during the run and 21st of the year.

Jays send RHP Adams to Red Sox

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Blue Jays traded right-hander Terry Adams to the Boston Red Sox on Saturday for a minor leaguer.

Adams went 4-4 with a 3.98 ERA in 42 games. He lost his job as Toronto's setup man earlier this season. The 31-year-old Adams

signed a one-year, \$1.7 million contract with Toronto in the offseason after playing for Philadelphia in 2003. The Red Sox are Adams' fifth team.

The Blue Jays acquired third baseman John Hart, who hit .298 with 12 home runs and 35 RBIs in 74 games with Double-A Portland.

Cardinals' Lankford on DL

ST. LOUIS — Seldom-used Cardinals outfielder Ray Lankford went on the 15-day disabled list Sunday with a sprained right wrist.

Lankford's injury allowed the team to bolster its bullpen, recalling right-hander Dan Haren from Triple-A Memphis. Lankford was hurt while striking out as a pinch-hitter Wednesday.

Lankford was the Opening Day starter in left field but has made only two starts along with seven pinch-hit appearances this month.

MLB
briefs

Mueller lands final blow in brawl-filled game

Walk-off two-run homer gives Boston emotional 11-10 win over N.Y.

By DAVID HEUSCHKE

The Hartford Courant

BOSTON — For all the drama these teams have staged over the years, the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees managed to cram what seemed like a season's worth into one game Saturday.

The 34,501 fans who packed into Fenway Park witnessed what may serve as a precursor to October, an emotionally charged game that definitely packed a punch. And to think it was close to being postponed because the field was drenched from overnight and morning rain.

Bill Mueller delivered the final blow with one out in the ninth inning. His two-run homer off Mariano Rivera capped a comeback that gave the Red Sox an 11-10 victory in a thriller that featured a brawl, which will undoubtedly be a backdrop if the teams meet for a second straight year in the ALCS.

No word on when the DVD will be released.

"You play every game like it's the last game you'll ever play and you need to win," Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez said. "That's how good teams go about it."

Rodriguez was one of the main combatants in the brawl, taking exception to being hit by a 1-and-1 pitch from Bronson Arroyo in the third that may have been retaliation from the previous game, when Yankees reliever Tom Gordon drilled Nomar Garciaparra.

"I get hit a lot," Rodriguez said. "But I smelled something funny and I didn't like it."

Arroyo, second in the AL with 14 hit batters, said Rodriguez should know better. "He's been around the game long enough to know," Arroyo said. "I threw a sinker in there. The ball moves into him. It got him on the elbow pad. If I had thrown a strike war-seamer and hit him in the ribs, maybe it looks obvious. But the guy dives over the plate and hits balls 50 feet to right-center, so I'm going to try to get in on him."

Rodriguez flipped the bat and was glaring out to the mound as he started walking slowly toward first. Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek stepped in front of Rodriguez to make sure he didn't charge the mound, and they started jawing.



Yankees catcher Jorge Posada looks on as Boston's Bill Mueller hits a game-winning home run in the ninth inning against closer Mariano Rivera. The two-run shot capped a wild 11-10 Red Sox win that included a dugout-clearing brawl in the third inning.

"Obviously, anybody who gets hit isn't too happy," Varitek said. "So he was yelling a few things at Bronson. I told him, in choice words, to get to first base. And then it changed from him yelling at Bronson to yelling at each other, and then things got out of hand."

Said A-Rod: "I'm not going to get into [what Varitek said]. What's said on the battlefield shouldn't be repeated anywhere else. But I'll say this, this escalates the rivalry to even a higher level."

As plate umpire Bruce Froemming stepped between them, Rodriguez appeared to challenge Varitek by saying,

"C'mon," among other four-letter words. Varitek took him up on it, initiating contact by shoving Rodriguez. Both dugouts and bullpens emptied.

As a melee ensued, Yankees starter Tanyon Sturtze raced in and grabbed outfielder Gabe Kapler around the neck from behind. David Ortiz and Trot Nixon then went after Sturtze and wrestled him to the ground near the on-deck area.

"It's an emotional game," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "You'd like to believe you can play like a board game, but there are emotions. There are people involved. There are emotions. It's a high-energy situation. You



The Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, left, and Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek ignite a third-inning brawl. Both players were ejected from the game, along with Boston's Gabe Kapler and New York's Kenny Lofton.

certainly wish it would turn out differently, but I can't fault anybody."

Varitek, Rodriguez, Kapler and Kenny Lofton were ejected.

Three innings after tempers flared, the bats took over. The marathon sixth took more than an hour — 1 hour, 5 minutes, 18 seconds from the first pitch to last. The Yankees threw what looked like a six-run knockout punch to take a 9-4 lead. The Red Sox countered with four in the bottom half.

Ruben Sierra led off the seventh with a homer to make it 10-8. The next three batters reached on errors to lead the bases with none out, but reliever Alan Embree escaped the jam to keep the Red Sox within striking distance.

Nomar Garciaparra led off the ninth with a double and scored on a one-out single by Kevin Miller. Mueller followed by driving a 3-1 cutter from Rivera over the right field fence to win it.

Rivera (1-1) had saved 23 in a row. Former Yankees MVP Mendoza (1-0) earned the win with two hitless innings.

Having been ejected in the fifth for arguing a call at second base, Red Sox manager Terry Francona watched the winning hit on a TV in the clubhouse.

"I jumped right out of my shoes," said Francona, who joined the players mobbing Mueller at the plate. "When I went out on the field, I had no shoes on."

Surging Indians sweep away Royals, climb above .500

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians moved above .500 for the first time since the start of the 2003 season, beating the Kansas City Royals 5-1 Sunday behind Jake Westbrook's six-hit effort to sweep the four-game series.

Westbrook (7-5) allowed one unearned run, and rookie Grady Sizemore hit his first major league homer. Westbrook, who struck out three and walked two, improved to 6-0 with a 2.34 ERA at Jacobs Field this season.

Cleveland (50-49), which took a 4-0 lead in the first inning, won for the eighth time in 11 games to surpass .500 for the first time since the Indians were 2-1 on April 3, 2003. Cleveland had never before swept a four-game series from the Royals.

Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro has maintained

that going over .500 would be indicative to him whether his team was a contender and could factor into his decision on trades.

Kansas City, which has the worst record in the AL at 35-62, lost for the eighth time in 10 games. Zack Greinke (2-8) gave up five runs and eight hits in 6 1/2 innings. At 20 the youngest player currently in the major leagues, Greinke dropped to 1-7 since June 8.

Elsewhere in the AL Sunday:

Blue Jays 5, Devil Rays 3: Carlos Delgado hit a three-run homer to become the first Toronto player to drive in 1,000 runs, and David Bush (1-1) got his first major league win Sunday in Toronto.

The Blue Jays completed a three-game sweep of the Devil Rays, who have lost six straight overall and nine in a row on the

AL Roundup

road. Since moving a season-high two games over .500 on July 3, Tampa Bay has gone 5-15.

Twins 8, Orioles 4: Justin Morneau had three hits, including a long three-run homer, and visiting Minnesota roughed up rookie Daniel Cabrera (8-4).

Mike Cuddyer also homered and had three hits for the Twins, who won two of three from the Orioles to capture a third straight series for the first time since May 19.

Tigers 9, White Sox 2: Marcus Thames hit his first career grand slam and Detroit overcame the ejections of starter Jeremy Bonderman and manager Alan Trammell to win in Chicago.

Carlos Guillen had three singles — he was 8-for-13 in the series — as the Tigers avoided a three-game sweep and knocked the White Sox out of first place in the AL Central.

Bonderman and Trammell were ejected in the second inning after Bonderman hit Chicago's Aaron Rowand with a pitch, minutes after Paul Konerko's homer.

In Saturday's AL games:

Athletics 6, Rangers 2: Mark Kotsay homered twice to help Oakland snap a three-game losing streak.

Kirk Sjaarlows (2-1) pitched five innings for the A's, who pulled within 3 1/2 games of the first-place Rangers in the AL West.

Eric Chavez also homered for Oakland.

Orioles 4, Twins 2: Miguel Te-

jada homered and drove in two runs to back Sidney Ponson (5-12) as Baltimore snapped visiting Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

White Sox 7, Tigers 6: Joe Crede hit a game-winning home run in the ninth to rally Chicago past visiting Detroit.

Crede homered with one out in the ninth on a 3-2 pitch from Ugueth Urbina (3-5).

Indians 10-4, Royals 2-3: Rookie Grady Sizemore's RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning gave Cleveland a sweep of the day-night doubleheader at Jacobs Field.

Angels 8, Mariners 4: Darin Erstad and Josh Paul each hit two-run homers during a two-out, five-run rally in the seventh inning to lead the Angels in Seattle.

Robb Quinlan also homered and went 3-for-4 with three RBIs in Anaheim's third straight win.

SPORTS



Mueller delivers knockout blow
in latest Red Sox-Yankees slugfest,
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Armstrong rolls to record

U.S. cyclist wins unprecedented sixth straight Tour de France

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — Lance Armstrong rode into history Sunday, winning a record sixth Tour de France and cementing his place as one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Never in its 101-year history has the Tour had a winner like Armstrong — who eight years ago was given less than a 50 percent chance of overcoming testicular cancer that spread to his lungs and brain.

His streak of six straight crowns has helped reinvigorate the greatest race in cycling, steering it into the 21st century. And the Tour, as much a part of French summers as lauguid meals over chilled rosé, molded Armstrong into a sporting superstar.

No. 6: The achievement was almost too much for even Armstrong to comprehend.

"It might take years. I don't know. It hasn't sunk in yet. But six, standing on the top step on the podium on the Champs-Élysées is really special," he said.

The ride into Paris and its famous tree-lined boulevard was a lap of honor Armstrong savored with a glass of champagne in the saddle. Even Jan Ullrich, his main adversary in previous years, gulped down a glass offered by Armstrong's team manager through his car window.

"The last laps there, I thought, 'Ah, I want to get this over with,'" Armstrong said. "But then I thought to myself, 'You know, you might want to do a few more laps, because you may not ever do it again.' And you can't take it for granted."

President Bush called soon after his fellow Texan crossed the finish line. "You're awesome," Bush told him.

With the Arc de Triomphe in the background, Armstrong put his yellow bicycle cap over his heart during the raising of the American flag and playing of "The



Lance Armstrong holds a placard reading "6" for his six consecutive victories in the Tour de France as he stands next to fans on Paris' Champs Élysees avenue Sunday. The Texan finished 6 minutes, 19 seconds ahead of runner-up Andreas Klöden of Germany.

Star-Spangled Banner." It might be his last time on the podium, at least for a while. Armstrong has said he might skip the sport's showcase event next year.

Belgian Tom Boonen won the final sprint, with Armstrong cruising safely behind with the trailing pack.

Armstrong's winning margin over second-placed Andreas Klöden of Germany was 6 minutes, 19 seconds, with Italian

Ivan Basso in third (6:40). Ullrich was fourth (8:50), his worst finish.

Armstrong opened a new page for the Tour in 1999, one year after the race faced its worst doping scandal, ejecting the Festina team after police caught one of its employees with a stash of drugs.

Armstrong's victories and his inspiring comeback from cancer have drawn new fans to a race that has been won five times

by four other riders. His professionalism, attention to detail, grueling training regimens and tactics have raised the bar for other riders hoping to win the three-week cycling marathon.

"He's changed the Tour forever," said fellow American rider Bobby Julich. "He has set the blueprint for success, and he deserves all the success that he is getting."

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his position
in Nextel Cup
driver standings
with first victory
since March**

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